



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦



*Kaisen Dixon, 2016
Choctaw Tribal Schools
Spelling Bee Winner*

Dixon wins 2016 CTS Spelling Bee

Kaisen Dixon, fifth grade student at Pearl River Elementary School, was the grand champion speller of the 22nd Annual Choctaw Tribal Schools District-Wide Spelling Bee held Feb. 4 at the Standing Pine Elementary School Gymnasium.

Dixon will represent the Choctaw Tribal Schools in the Mississippi Spelling Bee in Jackson on Tuesday, March 15. The competition will be aired live on Mississippi Public Broadcasting beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Dixon was one of 45 local spelling bee winners representing grades fourth-eighth from Bogue Chitto (BCES), Conehatta (CES), Pearl River (PRES), Red Water (RWES), Standing Pine (SPES), and Tucker Elementary Schools (TES) and Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS).

In the opening rounds, champion spellers from

.....see BEE, pg. 9

USET SPF Impact Week Held in Washington

(WASHINGTON, DC) - The first official USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Impact Week Meeting was held Feb. 8-11 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

USET SPF is a 501(c) 4 organization that places focus and attention on education of Congress and the nation's administration regarding issues challenging Indian Country and advocating for the policy and legislation needs of its member Tribal Nations.

During the Impact Week Meeting in Washington, D.C., Tribal leadership once again placed focus on renewing their efforts to promote and protect the inherent sovereign authority of Tribal nations.

In his opening remarks to Tribal leaders, USET President Brian Patterson stated, "Empowering our Indian people is key to making positive,

progressive, and visionary change across our Tribal Nations. In doing so, we are promoting and protecting our inherent sovereignty rights and authorities which will ensure that we have strong, healthy and vibrant communities."

"Our goal each time we meet is to unlock doors of opportunity for our Tribal Nations and find the solutions to the challenges that have prevented our Tribal Nations from thriving rather than just surviving. That is the important and sacred responsibility that we have and it is central to the work we face this week."

With a year remaining in the current Administration, USET's Board of Directors discussed its priorities for 2016; implementation of the Tribal Law and Order Act; updating of the Quiet Crisis Report with the U.S. Civil

.....see USET, pg. 4



Tribal Youth Summit participants carry their respective Tribal flags during the USET Opening Ceremony.



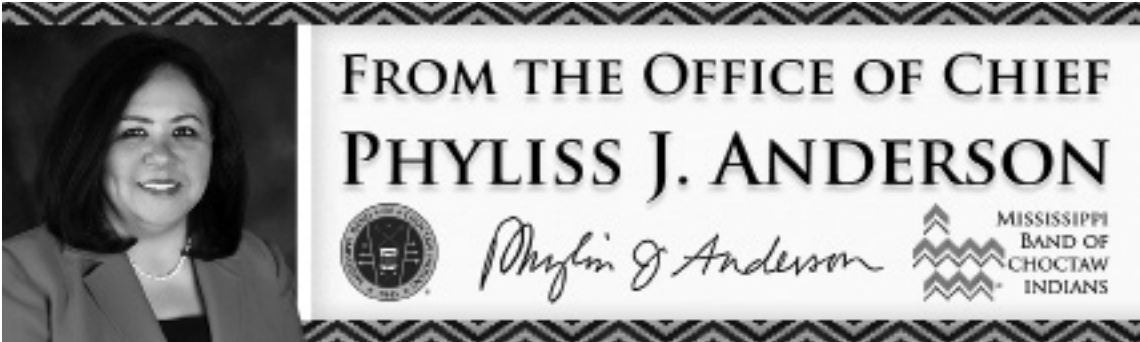
USET President Brian Patterson, right, addresses participants of the Tribal Youth Summit.



Tribe Participates in Inauguration Parade

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians participated in the 2016 Inauguration Parade of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant on Tuesday, January 12 in downtown Jackson. The delegation, led by tribal drummers & Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, included princesses & braves from the Choctaw Tribal Schools & members of the Choctaw Central High School Social Dancers.





Halito! As we start this new year I am so encouraged and excited about the many things in store for our great Tribe. With our new budget, not only are we able to provide cost-of-living increases and several other employee benefits but we also set aside money for building renovations, community improvements and new projects that will improve services and quality of life for our tribal members.

Throughout this issue of *Community News* and in the coming months you will see these projects underway as we move forward in creating new Choctaw progress.

**Tribal Elder
Roofing Project**

This summer I introduced my “Next 100 Day Plan” which included a \$10 Million Housing Plan. As part of this housing plan, I have set aside \$1 million to make much needed and necessary roofing repairs to the homes of many of our tribal elders living on the reservation.

In the month of February we accepted applications through the Choctaw Elderly Program. We had a number of elders apply for the program and assessment teams have already

gone out in the communities to evaluate the needed repairs. Those tribal elders living in conditions with the most damage, income hardships and degree of disability are considered urgent and will be serviced first.

We are also collecting data to determine how we can best serve those elderly living off the reservation but in the local county area. I am confident this program will provide the needed services to so many of our tribal elders and I thank everyone that is supporting this project.

**Pearl River Community
Center
(formerly known as
Downstairs Facility
Building)**

Also included in the FY16 budget were funds to update and renovate the downstairs facility building in Pearl River. This building has been used over the years for countless occasions such as birthday celebrations, school programs, Choctaw Indian Fair exhibits, funerals, and meetings to name a few.

In the last few months engineers, planners and a construction crew have worked to correct infrastructure problems

such as drainage, electricity and sewage.

The facility had a number of overdue repairs that were made as well as fresh paint, new flooring and a new kitchen. I think the building looks great and I am excited to show it off.

Our new Pearl River Community Center (formerly known as the Downstairs Facility Building) was featured at an open house for tribal members on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 10:00 A.M. when light refreshments, self-guided tours and door prizes were offered.

The building is available to rent for \$50 by calling Tribal Member Services office at 601-650-1538. I encourage you to stop by and see our newly improved and renovated facility building.

**More Upcoming
Renovations**

More updates are still scheduled in the coming months before our Choctaw Indian Fair. We will build a new press box and restrooms at the CCHS Football Stadium; provide significant updates and improvements at the CCHS Softball field; new bathrooms at the Amphitheater Stage area; repair drainage and sewage



Pictured above is a view of the new flooring of the Pearl River Community Center. Below is a picture of the new porch constructed at the entrance.

lines, and renovate the entertainment house at the Amphitheater.

**Choctaw Health Center
Marks One Year of Service
in New Facility**

It’s hard to believe that just one year ago we held the grand opening celebration of our new Choctaw Health Center on March 2, 2015, and opened for services on March 9, 2015. It was indeed a monumental project and truly a great achievement for our Tribe.

We currently have 13 physicians on staff and offer a range of services to our tribal members for comprehensive healthcare. Those include dental, diabetes care, emergency department, emergency medical services, primary care,

women’s wellness, WIC, laboratory services, optometry, medical imaging, pharmacy, rehabilitation services, respiratory therapy, behavioral health, and acute care.

We will celebrate the anniversary with a come-and-go reception on Wednesday, March 9th, 2016. Please stop by for light refreshments starting at 11 AM.

NASA Tournament

The Native American Sports Association (NASA) Basketball Tournament was held January 22-23, 2016, in Hollywood, Florida hosted by the Seminole Tribe.

Mississippi Choctaws were well represented with ten 18 &

.....continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350
TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565**

Brian C. WillisCommunications Manager
Kathie HenryCommunications Writer
Taryn CareyCommunications Writer
Darron TubbyCommunications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Congratulations to Victorious Secret, left, as they claimed this year’s NASA men’s division championship. Pictured right is Lady MBCI as they placed third in the women’s division. Not pictured is MBCI Legends as they placed second in the Over-40 men’s division.

Over men and women's teams and one Over 40 men's team. There were 37 teams total competing in the tournament.

MBCI had the first place team in the 18 & Over division coached by Brison La-Sarge and Trent Thompson; and the MBCI Legends Over 40 Men's team coached by Rickey Anderson came in second in their division.

Congratulations to all our players and teams for a great showing at this year's basketball tournament.

CCHS Athletics

Rick and I have enjoyed watching our student athletes during this season of CCHS Warrior basketball and soccer.

So far CCHS Lady Warriors are #1 in their division; CCHS Girls Soccer has won district now for four years in a row; and CCHS Boys Soccer had a great season clinching a playoff bid for the first time. In addition, the CCHS Bowling Team has also finished their season after competing in the regionals in Tupelo, MS.

We congratulate all of these student athletes on their achievements on their field of play and look forward to cheering on our basketball teams as they continue their drive to the "Big House!"

Upcoming Community Field Days

In the coming months, I will visit our communities for the annual Community Field Days. It is a time of fellowship, fun and food for all community residents, but more importantly it is a time that I can provide a report and updates on our tribal and resort progress.

It is important to me that I have these occasions to visit with you in your home community and to hear of your concerns and personal growth. We are making great strides to improve all our communities and provide more employment and housing opportunities.

I will share important numbers, details on programs and spend one-on-one time with our tribal members. If you are interested in volunteering at a community field day we welcome your support. Please call the Office of Special Projects at (601) 663-7524.

Closing

Over the last few weeks we have been experiencing some rough weather conditions. As the temperatures change we have seen wintry weather conditions and some tornadoes. I want to encourage everyone

to take precautionary measures to ensure the safety and comfort of everyone in your homes, especially the elders, disabled and young children.

Please plan ahead and know your safe place in case of severe weather. We do our very best to alert people of bad weather through sirens, text messages and of course local media outlets.

Every Choctaw life is dear to me. Let's look after each other to ensure safety for all our tribal members and may God continue to richly bless our great Tribe, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Chief Phyllis J. Anderson

Employees, Contest Winners Honored

Several employees of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) and winners of the annual Christmas decoration contest were honored during the Tribal Government Christmas Luncheon Dec. 18 at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium.

Clarissa Stewart of the Choctaw Health Center was named recipient of the 2015 MBCI Employee of the Year. She was also the recipient of the Extra Mile Award.

Other employee category award recipients included: Leslie J. Willis of the Choctaw Health Center, Workplace Improvement/Innovation Award; Verna Williamson of the Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Administrative or Clerical Support Award; Kevin Cotton of Choctaw Transit, Heroism Award; and John K. Cumberland of Tribal Administration, Leadership Award.

Winners of the 14th Annual Reservation-Wide Christmas Decoration Contest were recognized for their efforts and

News from the Tribal Distribution Office

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. (All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.)

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card)
- Address changes - If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time do have an expiration.
- Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants.
- We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone
- Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do direct deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.



Pictured from left are employee award recipients Verna Williamson, Kevin Cotton, Clarissa Stewart (Employee of the Year), Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, Chief Phyllis J. Anderson, Leslie Willis, & John Cumberland.

received cash awards.

With 29 registered contestants from all eight Choctaw communities, Juannina Mingo of Standing Pine was the overall winner and received \$600.

Shirley Wilson of Pearl River placed second and received \$500; Judy Nickey of Conehatta placed third and received \$400.

Contestants named Honorable Mentions and \$150 recipients include: Karene Jefferson, Bogue Chitto; Jennifer Thomas, Bogue Homa; Toniya Lay, Conehatta; Savannah Galvan, Crystal Ridge; Lorena Alex, Pearl River; Betty Ross, Red Water; Holly Peters, Standing Pine; and Marsha Davis, Tucker.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary and action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed and submitted to the Policy and Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 12, 2016

Resolution CHO 16-012, approving a Memorandum

of Understanding between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Choctaw Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service, was ADOPTED 15 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent (*C. Ben & D. McClelland*).

Resolution CHO 16-013, approving amendments to the Bylaws of the Choctaw Health Center, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-014, approving Laurie Hamilton, MSN, FNP, research "Utilizing Culturally Congruent Educational Interventions To Improve Native American

Outcomes, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-015, approving publication request by University Medical Center Children's Hospital employee, Dr. Laura Newman, Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist, regarding Congenital Amegakaryocytic Thrombocytopenia; A Case Series and Review of Literature, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-016, applying for a grant from the State of Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning, to continue the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant

Program, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-017, confirming the appointment of members to serve on the Tribal Personnel Grievance Panel, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-018, appointing members to the Choctaw Health Department Governing Board, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*H. Ben, T. Chickaway, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, B. Steve, D. Wilson*), 4 No (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, L. Parkerson, S. Willis*), 4 Abstain (*C. Ben, K. Edwards, W. McMillan, J. Wesley*).

Resolution CHO 16-019, appointing a member to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED 15 Yes (*R. Bell, C. Ben, H. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley*),

0 No, 2 Abstain (*R. Anderson & W. McMillan*).

Resolution CHO 16-020, confirming appointments of members to the Choctaw Tax Commission, was ADOPTED 16 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain (*L. Parkerson*).

Resolution CHO 16-021, applying for a 2016 Native Agriculture and Foods Systems Initiative (NAFSI) Grant from The First Nations Institute, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-022, approval of commercial land assignments between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise and various tenants, was ADOPTED 16 Yes, 1 No (*L. Parkerson*), 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-023, adopting a Strategic Energy Plan, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-024, applying for a 2016 Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-025, accepting grant funds for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) Planning Grant, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-026, authorizing the Office of Economic Development to apply for a grant from the Administration of Native Americans, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-027, appointing directors to the Board of Directors of Chahta Holding Group, Inc., was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-028, approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-029(B), approving increase in blood degree from previously enrolled members, was ADOPTED 17 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

USET continued from page one

Rights Commission; discussing the Native specific provisions included in the recently passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and focusing on taxation issues facing Indian Country with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Additionally, Impact Week also included updates and discussions regarding Trust modernization efforts, economic development, housing, health, Tribal historic preservation, and gaming. USET Tribal leadership also visited with members of Congress and discussed a

wide range of issues.

USET took a moment to reflect, remember, and honor the life of Catawba Indian Nation Assistant Chief Wayne George, who passed away in January.

One of George's passions during his lifetime was working to ensure opportunities and support to Catawba youth as he understood their success would ensure the success of the Catawba Nation and Indian Country.

USET also continued its tradition of involvement of its Tribal youth and focusing on future leadership development. Students from various USET member Tribal Nations were in Washington, DC to attend the Tribal Youth Summit. The week of activities was supported by USET and the Close Up Foundation, who worked in partnership to bring an enriching and empowering experience for USET Tribal youth.

About 100 high school students from 23 of the USET member Tribal Nations met in Washington, D.C. as part of the Tribal Youth Summit.

The 2016 Tribal Youth Summit is the 19th where the USET has partnered with the Close Up Foundation to promote within these students a greater learning about their Tribes, gain an understanding about how the federal government works with Indian Country, and engage in a cultural exchange.

A goal for the Tribal Youth Summit is to build leadership skills and foster positive development among the younger generations.

Throughout the week, students analyzed challenges facing their Tribal communities; developed solutions to those issues; visited with members of Congress; and held a mock board of director session where they discussed issues and presented resolutions to the USET Board of Directors.

USET President Patterson told the students on Feb. 7, at the beginning of their Tribal

Youth Summit, the empowerment they receive through this week will help build resources for their Tribal Nations.

"You, as young leaders, will build some great skills and take back with you tools and resources that will eventually make a great impact on your community, and yes for your children's future. Empowering you to make positive and lasting changes is what this week is all about," said Patterson.

USET Secretary Dr. Lynn Malerba also told the students their attitudes toward making great change is a key factor in how their work as leaders will be effective.

"I really like how President Patterson always tells us at the beginning of each USET meeting that we must approach our work as Tribal leaders with good hearts and good minds. You must do the same this week and you will make the change," said Malerba.



The late Catawba Indian
Nation Assistant Chief
Wayne George

USET Leadership Meets with Tribal Youth Summit Students



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

FROM THE CHC BUSINESS OFFICE

We would like for you to have the best patient experience at the Choctaw Health Center (CHC). Here are some quick reminders from the Business Office about referrals.

REFERRALS

In order to be eligible for Purchased and Referred Care, you must live on the reservation or in one of the ten counties: Attala, Winston, Noxubee, Leake, Neshoba, Kemper, Scott, Newton, Jasper and Jones.

REFERRAL APPOINTMENTS

- If the doctor at CHC decides you need a non-emergent referral, please allow a week or more before getting an appointment. We ask that you contact us if you have not received a phone call or a voice mail message.

- For **NEW and FOLLOW-UP appointments**, pick up your referral at the Business Office. You should not be asked for a co-pay at the appointment.

- For **FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS**, call to inform us or bring your appointment card at least one week in advance. If you bring it the day before, we may not have sufficient time to obtain all medical information from your referring physician. We want to ensure you have all information needed for your appointment.

- Be sure to take your **Driver's License or photo I.D., insurance card**, and medications to all doctor visits. Some providers will not see you without **photo I.D.**

- Be sure to call the doctor's office **within 24 hours** if you **CANNOT** make your **REFERRAL** appoint-

ment. Notify the Business Office as well. Call the doctor's office to cancel or reschedule your **REFERRAL** appointment. There will possibly be a **FEE to you**, for "no show" from that doctor's office. CHC cannot cover these "no show" charges.

BILLS/STATEMENTS

- If you have received a bill from a previous referral, this means that we have not received it at CHC. Providers will send the bill to us or you, not both. We rely on you to bring in the bill to us timely. CHC pays only if you had a referral for the visit. Please

be aware when you go to the doctor outside of CHC on your own without a referral, you are responsible for the bill and/or copay.

- Bills/statements brought in to CHC will require a two forms to be filled out. This includes information about the bill/statement and an authorization for us to request your bill information from the doctor. According to

HIPAA guidelines, providers will not speak with us about your bill without this authorization form.

- We receive a high volume of bills/statements. Please allow us at least 30 days to receive the information from the doctor's office or hospital.

For more information, call the CHC Business Office at 601-389-4060.

MEET THE CHC SPECIALTY DOCTORS

Dr. Sarita Elizabeth Cox, ND, LAc., practices Naturopathic Medicine and is a licensed Acupuncturist. Dr. Cox currently has a clinic in Meridian. She will be at the Choctaw Health Center (CHC) weekly doing acupuncture. Dr. Cox will be able to help with symptoms such as adult post-operative, chemotherapy nausea and vomiting, addiction, headache, menstrual cramps, fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, low back pain, and carpal tunnel syndrome. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Gregory Auzenne, MD, is a staff physician at Rush Pain Clinic. He will provide pain treatment at CHC starting March 4. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Gregory A. Gordon, MD, will be a staff psychiatrist at CHC at the Behavioral Health Clinic. Dr. Gordon is currently a part-time contract psychiatrist but will be on staff full time starting March 15. He previously worked at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr., MD,

is a kidney doctor (Nephrologist) and will have a specialty clinic twice monthly. He currently works as a Kidney Specialist at Meridian Internal Medicine Clinic (IMC). You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Jennifer Rodriguez, MD, is a heart specialist (Cardiologist). She will start her clinic in March 2016 and will be available monthly. She currently works as a cardiologist

at IMC in Meridian. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.

Dr. Ronnye Purvis, MD, is an OB/GYN who practices at the Purvis Clinic in Meridian. He will be available at Women's Wellness Clinic to see patients who are referred from the primary care physician or one of our nurse practitioners at CHC.

Dr. Urelaine Simon-Hart, MD, is an OB/GYN who practices at the Women's Wellness

Institute in Meridian. She is available at

Women's Wellness Clinic to see patients who are referred from the primary care physician or one of our nurse practitioners at CHC.

Dr. Juantina Johnson, Chief Medical Officer, has a weekly Pulmonology (Lungs) Clinic at CHC. She sees patients with asthma, COPD and other causes of lung diseases. You may call the Primary Care Clinic to schedule an appointment.



Dr. Sarita Elizabeth Cox



Dr. Gregory Auzenne



Dr. Gregory A. Gordon



Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr.



Dr. Jennifer Rodriguez



Dr. Ronnye Purvis



Dr. Urelaine Simon-Hart



Dr. Juantina Johnson

Dental Health Tips for Children

Children's Dental Health Month has been observed in February since 1941. It has grown from a day-long event to an entire month now. This time is intended to bring awareness of dental health of

children.

We are very busy with activities from the Early Child Care Centers to the Choctaw Health Center. Stay tuned for pictures and articles in the coming months.

to help them chew and to speak clearly. And baby teeth hold space for adult teeth.



BEFORE BABY IS BORN

Mothers, before your baby is born, you can begin taking care of his or her teeth. How, you ask? By taking care of your mouth and teeth.

We can treat prenatal moms throughout the pregnancy now to ensure that no harmful bacteria is passed from mom to baby. The same bacteria that causes cavities in mom's mouth can cause preterm deliveries, low birth weights and miscarriages.

Please get a dental check up early during your pregnancy so dental treatment can be completed before delivery. We know how busy you will be after delivery.

HEALTHY TEETH ARE IMPORTANT (EVEN BABY TEETH)

Children need healthy teeth

Please read the following and maybe put yourself in Maria's or Ann's place.

Ann and her friend Maria were watching Maria's children play.

"What are you doing?" asked Ann.

"I'm cleaning my baby's teeth," said Maria.

"But your baby hardly has any teeth!" said Ann.

"Yes, but the dentist said there are things I can do to keep my baby from getting cavities," said Maria.

"But don't baby teeth just fall out?" asked Ann.

"Yes, but before they fall out baby teeth can decay and cause pain for the baby. And baby teeth are important - they hold space for adult teeth," said Maria.

"What else did the dentist

say?" asked Ann.

"She told me that fluoride protects teeth. She also said to feed my baby healthy foods and not to put my baby to bed with a bottle," said Maria.

"When do you have to start taking care of a baby's teeth?" asked Ann.

"As soon as they come in. Teeth can start to decay as soon as they appear in the mouth," said Maria.

"I'll have to start thinking of those things soon!" said Ann.

CHECK YOUR BABY'S TEETH

Healthy teeth should be all one color. If you see spots or stains on the teeth, take your baby to the dentist.

CLEAN YOUR BABY'S TEETH

Clean teeth as soon as they come in with a small, soft cloth or a baby's toothbrush. Clean the teeth at least once a day. It's best to clean them right before bedtime.

Young children cannot get their teeth clean by themselves. Until they are 7 or 8 years old, you will need to help them brush. Try brushing their teeth first and then letting them finish. Also, let them see you brush your teeth. This will

reinforce the importance of brushing daily. You are your child's best example.

FEED YOUR BABY HEALTHY FOODS

Choose foods without a lot of sugar in them. Give your child fruits and vegetables for snacks. Save cookies and other treats for special occasions.

Choose milk and water. Check the ingredients on the soft drinks, Gatorade, Powerade, lemonade and Kool-aid. Nothing good or healthy in these for your baby.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE DENTIST

Your child should have a dental visit by his first birthday. Why? So the dentist can check your baby's teeth, show you the best way to clean your child's teeth, and talk to you about other things such as a healthy diet, and fluoride that can keep your child's mouth healthy.

If you have any questions or need to make a dental check up appointment for you or your child, please call the Choctaw Dental Department at 601-389-4030.

Keep smiling!

Diabetes Clinic News

The Diabetes Clinic is providing better services to every diabetic patient that comes to our clinic. We now have two providers, Dr. Joshi and Teresa Cumberland, FNP. Our clinic days have increased from 3 days to 5 days per week.

Diabetes patients have annual requirements to complete to satisfy the Diabetes Standards of Care. The requirements are:

- Diabetes check-up with labs;
- Diabetes management education;
- Foot exam;
- Diabetic eye exam;
- Dental exam;
- Nutrition assessment;
- Immunizations;
- Exercise education;
- Behavioral health screening.

Please call or stop by and make an appointment. If you are receiving any of these services from providers outside the Choctaw Health Center or one of the community clinics, let us know so the information can be placed in your CHC health record.

Important to Know

If you are coming to the Diabetes Clinic to pick up supplies, please allow at least 20 minutes. Required education services will be provided when you pick up supplies.

Clinic hours are 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. from Monday-Friday. Phone number is 601-389-4370.

THE CHOCTAW HEALTH SERVICES
OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM PRESENTS:

CONNECTING KIDS TO COVERAGE HEALTH FAIR

Thursday, March 17, 2016
1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Pearl River Facility Building

The Outreach Services Program received a grant through the Insure Kids Now program under the Department of Health & Human Services & is promoting education & enrollment for the Medicaid & CHIP Federal Programs. Kids & Teens - all the way up to the age of 19 - could qualify for the free health insurance. They can get regular check-ups, immunizations, doctor & dentist visits, hospital care, mental health services, prescriptions, & more.

The Outreach Services Program encourages Departments to come set-up a booth at the community event & offer their services at the Health Fair. If interested in setting up a booth, forms are available here at the Choctaw Health Center, 2nd floor - Public Health. Deadline to turn in booth forms is Thursday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Lindsey Gibson at 601.389.4109 or Jenna Tubby at 601.389.4125.

Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Health Needs and Your Budget?

Medicaid or CHIP May Be the Answer! You Can Enroll Any Time - But Why Wait?

Connecting Kids to Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer low-cost or free health insurance for you and your family. In many states, more adults than ever before may qualify for Medicaid.

Who may be eligible?

- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents (and other adults, depending on the state)
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Youth "aging out" of foster care

Eligibility depends on income, the size of your family and the rules in your state.

When you enroll, you can get:

- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms & colonoscopy
- Prenatal and maternity care
- Hospital stays
- Mental health care
- Needed medications
- Children get vision and dental care (adults may get these benefits too)

American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP:

- Can still get care from your Indian care provider.
- Don't have to pay premiums or co-payments.
- Indian trust income is not counted to determine eligibility and is protected from Medicaid estate recovery rules.

You benefit by having greater access to health care services.

Tribes benefit because their health programs get more resources.

To find out if you qualify, visit www.KidsPlus.com or call Outreach Services Program 1-601-389-4114 Dorene Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4289 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Submitted by the Choctaw Health Center Office of Environmental Health



The Choctaw Health Center Office of Environmental Health strives to aid Tribal members in keeping pests which may be detrimental to public health controlled to as reasonable a level as feasible. Homeowners, business owners & Tribal government must work together through a system known as Integrated Pest Management.

WHAT IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an overall pest management strategy for control of pests in homes, apartment buildings, dorms, & businesses.

IPM is a pest management system that combines non-chemical control strategies with less toxic pesticide use minimizing risk to human health & the environment.

For example, traps, baits & gels might be used instead of sprays to control pests. IPM minimizes health risks for susceptible populations, such as small children & older adults. IPM also focuses on eliminating ways for pests to get into homes, as well as eliminating access to food & water if they do get inside.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

Everyone has had the unpleasant experience of being bitten by a mosquito. Mosquito bites can cause skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva – which causes the red bump & itching. But a more serious consequence of some mosquito bites may be the transmission of serious diseases such as malaria, dengue fever & several forms of encephalitis, including West Nile Virus.

Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that afflict humans, but they can also transmit diseases & parasites that dogs & horses are very susceptible to. These include dog

heart worms, eastern equine encephalitis & West Nile virus.

There are about 200 different species of mosquitoes in the U.S., all of which live in specific habitats, exhibit unique behaviors & bite different types of animals. Despite these differences, all mosquitoes share some common traits, such as a four-stage life cycle.

Different species of mosquitoes prefer different types of standing water to lay their eggs. The presence of beneficial predators, such as fish & dragonfly nymphs in permanent ponds, lakes & streams, usually keep these bodies of water relatively free of mosquito larvae.

However, portions of marshes, swamps, clogged ditches, & temporary pools & puddles are all prolific mosquito breeding sites. Other sites in which some species lay their eggs include:

- Tree holes
- Old tires
- Buckets
- Toys
- Potted plant trays & saucers
- Plastic covers or tarpaulins
- Places as small as bottle caps!

REMOVING MOSQUITO

HABITATS

An important part of mosquito control around your home is making sure that mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Because mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, it's important to monitor standing water sources.

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.

- Empty & change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, & potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.

- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.

- Keep swimming pool water treated & circulating.

PREVENT EXPOSURE TO MOSQUITOES

Use the following tips to help protect yourself from exposure to mosquitoes:

- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellents when necessary & follow label directions & precautions closely. Repellents containing DEET have proven to be very effective. Some other products, such as citronella-based repellents, are somewhat effective. "Bug zappers" are NOT recommended. These actually attract mosquitoes & other flying insects.

- Tuck shirt into pants & pants into socks to cover gaps in your clothing where mosquitoes can get to your skin.

- Use head nets, long sleeves & long pants if you venture into areas with high mosquito

populations, such as marshes.

- Stay indoors at sunrise, sunset & early in the evening when mosquitoes are most active, especially if there is a mosquito-borne disease warning in effect.

- Replace your outdoor lights with yellow "bug"

lights, which tend to attract fewer mosquitoes than ordinary lights. The yellow lights are NOT repellents, however.

- Cover all gaps in walls, doors, & windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering.

.....see MOSQUITO, pg. 8

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM FUNDS

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children (WIC) have been awarded funds by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to provide free supplemental food to eligible and certified participants. Eligible to participate in the program are pregnant and breastfeeding women who are at nutritional risk, Infants and children up to the age of 5 years who are of low income and are eligible to receive services at the Choctaw Health Center. WIC also provides other services such as:

1. Nutrition Education
2. Referral services to other Health services when necessary for specific health protection and health promotion activities
3. Dietary assessment
4. Breastfeeding counseling
5. Farmer's Market

All applicants must bring proof of income, residence, and I.D. to certify.

Examples of Proof of Income:

- A current pay stub less than 60 days old
- A signed statement from an employer indicating gross income earnings for a specified pay period
- Current W-2 forms
- An income tax return for the most current year
- Proof of Medicaid, TANF, or Food Stamps

Examples of Proof of Residence Include:

- Pieces of mail that include the client's current address (e.g. current utility bill, bank statement, etc.)
- A valid driver's license with the current address
- A mortgage/rental agreement

Examples of Proof of Identification Include:

- Driver's license
- Tribal ID
- Student ID
- Employee Badge

The WIC Office, located on the first floor of the Choctaw Health Center, is open to process applications and issue Food Vouchers, Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more information, please call the WIC Office at 601-389-4510.

"In accordance with Federal law and US Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability or national origin. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866)632-9992 (voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339 or (800)845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (2-11-11)"

Current eligibility guidelines appear below. If your annual income is at or below the amount listed for your family size, then you can qualify for WIC assistance. Income listed is gross income, before taxes, insurance, or any other deductions.

INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES					
(Effective from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)					
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$21,776	\$1,815	\$908	\$908	\$419
2	29,473	2,456	1,228	1,228	567
3	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	52,558	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	60,254	5,022	2,501	2,318	1,158
7	67,951	5,663	2,822	2,614	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
Each Additional Family member add	+ \$7,686	+ \$642	+ \$321	+ \$296	+ \$148



SAVOR THE FLAVOR OF EATING RIGHT

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH® 2016

Visit the WIC office during the month of March to learn more about National Nutrition Month. Healthy cooking tips and recipes will also be available.

MBCI WIC Program
210 Hospital Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-4510

ACA Indian Exemption Info for Tribal Members

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires all Americans to obtain health care coverage beginning in 2014 or pay a tax penalty. American Indians and Alaska Natives are exempt from the penalty if they claim the Indian Exemption.

federally-recognized tribes and descendants who are part of a community served by the IHS or tribal health facility;

- California Indians as defined by 25 U.S.C. 1679;
- Non-Indian women who are pregnant with the child of an eligible Indian.

WHO IS COVERED BY THE INDIAN EXEMPTION?

The Indian exemption applies to anyone who is:

- An enrolled member in a federally-recognized Tribe;
- An Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) village or regional shareholder; or
- Eligible to receive services from an IHS or Tribal health clinic.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE SERVICES FROM AN IHS OR TRIBAL HEALTH CLINIC?

IHS eligibility includes:

- Enrolled members of

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO CLAIM THE INDIAN EXEMPTION?

The exemption may be claimed by you or your tax preparer by filling out IRS Tax Form 8965, and selecting option “E” in Part III.

You may also qualify for the exemption through the Health Insurance Exchange operating in your State, but using IRS Tax Form 8965 may be easier. If you already obtained an exemption certificate through the Exchange operating in your State, you may enter your Exemption Certificate Number in Part I.

The Indian exemption is not automatic. You need to claim

it using IRS Tax Form 8965.

DO I NEED TO CLAIM INDIAN EXEMPTION IF I ALREADY HAVE INSURANCE OR SOME

- Make sure window & door screens are “bug tight.”
- Completely cover baby carriers & beds with netting.

USING INSECT REPELLENTS SAFELY

For the safe & effective use of pesticide products, always read the product label before using the product. Apply just enough repellent to cover exposed skin and/or clothing. Remember these important points to use repellents safely:

- Follow the label directions to ensure proper use.
- Repellents should be applied only to exposed skin and/or clothing. Do not use under clothing.
- Store insect repellents safely out of the reach of children, in a locked utility cabinet or garden shed.
- Do not apply near eyes & mouth, & apply sparingly around ears.
- When using sprays, do not spray directly into face; spray on hands first & then apply to face.
- Never use repellents over cuts, wounds or irritated skin.
- Do not spray in enclosed areas. Avoid breathing a spray product & do not use near food.
- After returning indoors, wash treated skin & clothes with soap & water.
- Do not use any products on pets or other animals unless the label clearly states it is for animals.

CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES AT LARVAL STAGE

Oils & films disperse as a thin layer on the surface of the water which causes larvae & pupae to drown.

Larvicides target larvae in the breeding habitat before they can mature into adult mosquitoes & disperse. Lar-

OTHER FORM OF COVERAGE (MEDICARE, MEDICAID OR THE VA)?

No, but you may want to claim the Indian Exemption in case you lose your coverage

for any reason during the year.

For more information, contact: Durnene Farmer, Outreach Services Program Director, at 601-389-4114; or Laura John, Adult Education Program, at 601-650-1756.

MOSQUITO continued from page seven

vicidal treatment of breeding habitats helps reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas.

Liquid Larvicide products are applied directly to water using backpack sprayers & trucks or aircraft-mounted sprayers Tablet, pellet, granular, & larvicides are also applied by mosquito controllers to breeding areas.

CONTROLLING ADULT MOSQUITOES

Communities seek to control adult mosquitoes to combat an outbreak of mosquito-borne disease or a very heavy, nuisance infestation of mosquitoes. Pesticides registered for this use are known as adulticides. They are applied either by aircraft or on the ground employing truck-mounted sprayers.

State, tribal & local agencies commonly use the organophosphate insecticides malathion & naled & the synthetic pyrethroid insecticides prallethrin, etofenprox, pyrethrins, permethrin, resmethrin, & sumithrin for adult mosquito control.

Mosquito adulticides are applied as ultra-low volume (ULV) sprays, ULV sprayers dispense very fine aerosol droplets that stay aloft & kill flying mosquitoes on contact. ULV applications involve small quantities of pesticide active ingredient in relation to the size of the area treated, typically less than 3 ounces per acre, which minimizes exposure & risks to people & the environment.

Adulticides can be used for public health mosquito control programs without posing risks of concern to the general population or to the environment when applied according to the pesticide label.

MOSQUITO SURVEYING

If you would like your property to be evaluated for mosquito harborage, contact the Office of Environmental Health at 601-389-4142.

Title I PAB Hosts Working Lunch

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met at the Ayipa Café in Choctaw for their working lunch on Dec. 15, 2015. Fifteen board members and 22 guests enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch

Standing Pine Elementary School Music Teacher Melody Starling, along with eight of her exceptionally talented students, entertained board members and guests with their rendition of a Disney musical.

PAB Chair Ray Willis honored Walter Jim as December’s Outstanding Choctaw Educator. Walter has worked with the Tribal Schools since 1994. He has been a custodian at both the old and new Tucker Elementary Schools and takes pride in his work and always strives to make the school look good.

Before his employment with the schools, Walter worked with the Tribal Construction Company. He and his late wife, Louise, have been blessed with two daughters and three sons.

Willa Brantley, Director of Education, and David Germany, Director of Schools, both shared information about the schools’ progress with board

.....continued next page

WHERE CAN I GET IRS TAX FORM 8965?

Pictured below is a sample of IRS Tax Form 8965. Actual form is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f8965.pdf>

Instructions for IRS Tax Form 8965 may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/instructions/i8965/ch01.html>

8965

Health Coverage Exemptions

OMB No. 1545-0047

2014

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Information about Form 8965 and its separate instructions is at www.irs.gov/form8965.

Name as shown on return

Your social security number

Complete this form if you have a Marketplace-granted coverage exemption or you are claiming a coverage exemption on your return.

Part I Marketplace-Granted Coverage Exemptions for Individuals: If you and/or a member of your tax household have an exemption granted by the Marketplace, complete Part I.

Table with 3 columns: Line, Name of individual, SSN, Exemption Certificate Number

Part II Coverage Exemptions for Your Household Claimed on Your Return:

Table with 3 columns: Line, Name of individual, SSN, Exemption Type

Part III Coverage Exemptions for Individuals Claimed on Your Return: If you and/or a member of your tax household are claiming an exemption on your return, complete Part III.

Table with 3 columns: Line, Name of individual, SSN, Exemption Type

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see your tax return instructions.

On 06/30/2015 Form 8965 (2014)

FIRST LEGO League Tournament Winners Announced

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 14th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament on Jan. 23 at the Pearl River Elementary School Gymnasium. Over one hundred students participated in this year's event.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that

captivates students' interest in science and technology as they learn problem solving and team building skills.

The following awards were presented after a day of competition.

Judges' Award

During the course of competition the judges may en-

counter a team whose unique efforts, performance or dynamics merit recognition. Some teams have a story that sets them apart in a unique way. Sometimes a team is so close to winning an award that the judges choose to give special recognition to that team. The Judges' Award allows the freedom to recognize a remarkable team. The Judges' Award was presented to System Overload from Pearl River Elementary School.

Robot Performance Award

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Oka Homma representing Red Water Elementary School. The Oka Homma's robot achieved the best score on the competition field.

Robot Design Award

This award recognizes a team that designs a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient and highly ca-

pable of performing challenge missions. The team utilizes outstanding programming principles, including clear, concise and reusable code that allows their robot to perform challenge missions autonomously and consistently. Solid engineering principles and a well-developed strategy is used to design and build an innovative, high performing robot. The Robot Design Award

was presented to Choctaw Central Middle School's The Triple "R" Squad.

Project Presentation Award

The Project Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Garbage Terminators for their utilization of diverse resources to formulate an in depth and comprehensive understanding of the problem they identified.

.....see LEGO, pg. 10



Judges' Award Recipient - System Overload

Team members include Jordan Truss, Leia Phillips, Dylan Williams, Kaiden Anderson, Breanna Isaac, Aison Jim, Gannon Vaughn, Da'Kiren Wilson, Waniya Tubby, Lilah Reynolds, Coach Willard Bacon, Coach Dolores Russell, & Coach Tressie Charlie.



Robot Performance Award Recipient - Oka Homma

Team members include Buford Billie, Miley Billie, Emmett Crowell, Hailee Stephens, Kobe Willis, Kerri Wilson, Samandan Kopaddy, Nicolas Barragan, Coach Madonna Watkins, Coach Brenda Clay, & Coach Charles Meely.

members and guests.

Chantay Frazier was elected Standing Pine representative to the PAB.

The Board will meet again

on Feb. 23. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pictured from left are Walter Jim, December's Outstanding Choctaw Educator; Willa Brantley, Director of Education; PAB Chair Ray Willis, new board member Chantay Frazier, & PAB Co-Chair Crystal Roach.



Standing Pine Elementary School music students & their teacher, Melody Starling.

BEE continued from page one

each grade competition included: (4th) Nataysia Willis, SPES; (5th) Dixon, PRES; (6th) Makayla Hickman, TES; (7th) Cheyan Robinson, CCMS; & (8th) Martina Willis, BCES.

Other participants included:

Fourth grade - Melanie Perez (BCES), Dexon Hall (CES), Zaynah Shoemake (CES), Tori Isaac (PRES), Kaily Willis (PRES), Kodi Jimmie (PRES), Delaiah Billy (PRES), Carmelo Dixon (RWES), & Raziya Cumberland (TES).

Fifth grade - Kacie Wallace (BCES), Catherine Jim (CES), Jaeson Johnson (CES), Tamaya Hampton (PRES), Azarie Willis (PRES), James Steve (PRES), Kerri Wilson (RWES), Taiton Stokes (SPES), & Lakenton Chickaway (TES).

Sixth grade - Neera Bell

(BCES), Malice Williams (CES), Annie Isaac (PRES), Crystal Routh (PRES), Taylor McMillan (PRES), Zander Sockey (RWES), & Seth Thomas (SPES).

Seventh grade - Breanne Mingo (BCES), Alarys Johnson (CES), Isley Mingo (CCMS), John Clemons (CCMS), Brighton Jimmie

(CCMS), Ashanti Body (RWES), & Gabriella Cumberland (TES).

Eighth grade - Ryan Smith (CES), Justina Hall (CES), Geric Hickman (CCMS), Jalen Williams (CCMS), Cody Roach (CCMS), JaShuntaye Isaac (CCMS), Armando Lopez (RWES), & Malakai Charlie (TES).



Pictured from left are spelling bee grade category winners Kaisen Dixon (5th grade-overall winner), Nataysia Willis (4th grade), Makayla Hickman (6th grade), Cheyan Robinson (7th grade), & Martina Willis (8th grade).

LEGO continued from page nine

The team’s solution is exceptionally well considered and creative, with good potential to solve the problem researched. This award recognizes a team that effectively communicated the problem and their proposed solution to both judges and other potential supporters.

FIRST LEGO League
Core Values Award

This award celebrates a team that is empowered by their FLL experience and displays extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit. They are able to accomplish more together than they could as individuals

through shared goals, strong communication, effective problem solving, and excellent time management. This team’s members show each other and other teams respect at all times. They recognize that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible, on and off the playing field. The Core Values Award was presented to OTG Squad from Tucker Elementary School.

Champion’s Award

This award recognizes a team that embodies the FIRST LEGO League experience, by fully embracing our CORE Values while achieving excellence and innovation in both the Robot Game and Project. The Champion’s Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School’s LEGO® Warriors.

Pearl River’s LEGO® Warriors will represent the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FIRST LEGO® League Mississippi Championship in Vicksburg in March.



Robot Design Award Recipient - Triple “R” Squad

Team members include Traiton Martin, Gerrett Isaac, Brannon Jim, Alexandria Martin, Colin Martin, Rayven McMillan, Melane Jimmie, Junaluska Wilson, Hunter Orduno, Isley Mingo, Cheyan Robinson, Coach Paula Pankratz, & Coach Brian Jay.



Project Presentation Award Recipient -
Garbage Terminators

Team members include Jaeden Wesley, DeShaylee Tubby, Conner Billy, Tayen Jim, Taiton Stokes, Seth Thomas, Bishop Reed, Anya Anderson, Nataysia Willis, Jabari Denson, Armando Ben, Chloe Wesley, & Coach Donna Anthony.



FLL Core Values Award Recipient - OTG Squad

Team members include Kristina Taylor, Seriah Cumberland, Malakai Charlie, Kyonia Kanagawa, Elray Willis, Dewight Chickaway, Leilani Charlie, Olivia Willis, Ariana Ramirez, Elliyonna Chickaway, & Coach Karla Clearman.



Champion’s Award Recipient - LEGO® Warriors

Team members include Jaylynn Briscoe, Andre’as Jim, Derek Reynolds, Crystal Routh, Memorie Willis, Peja York, Thomas Ben, Kaisen Dixon, Phoenix Wilson, James Steve, Jacob Frazier, Brydon Wesley, Tamaya Hampton, Tyra Billy, Demidrea Stokes, Aleyandro Clemmons, Coach Felcia Hudson, & Coach Maria Hartness.

Special thanks to our volunteers who donated their time, energies and talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools’ FIRST LEGO® League Tournament. Your contributions will have a lasting impact on our “Engineers of Tomorrow.”

Robot Design judges were Elray King and Pat O’Neil. Project Presentation judges

were Joyce King and Jerry Cain.

Core Values judges were Kristi Willis and Brenita Reynolds.

Robot Performance referees were Wes Wallace and Brandon Farve.

Choctaw Central High School Principal Fredrick Hickmon served as emcee.

RWES Hosts
Spelling Bee

Red Water Elementary School (RWES) hosted their school-wide spelling bee on Jan. 13. Winners in grades 4th-8th then participated in the Choctaw Tribal Schools’ District-Wide Spelling Bee on Feb. 4.

Representing RWES in the district spelling bee were Carmelo Dixon (4th grade), Kerri Wilson (5th grade), Zander Sockey (6th grade), Ashanti Body (7th grade), and Armando Lopez (8th grade).

Students placing first, second or third in the RWES spelling bee included the following:

(Pre-K) - Presley Phillips, Ginger Burnside & Logan Bell;

(K) - Serenity Kopaddy, Hadley Mack & Paris Martine;

(1st grade) - Zahe Wilson, Josiah Wishork & Ashlyn Killingsworth;



(2nd grade) - Christopher Williams, Leah Lewis, Adarius Lewis, Kinsleigh Willis, Ansley Wallace, & Carlyle Phillips;

(3rd grade) - Sebastian May, Bracyn Willis & Kaden Edwards;

(4th grade) - Carmelo Dixon, Buford Billie & Bralanna Wilson;

(5th grade) - Kerri Wilson,

Maddux Dixon & Tayler Tiger;

(6th grade) - Zander Sockey, Breely Wilson & Avontae Jones;

(7th grade) - Ashanti Body, Jurnee Jones & Trevell Vivians;

(8th grade) - Armando Lopez, Taezialin Tubby & Iverson Allen.



Choctaw Tribal Schools Girls Basketball Champions - CCMS Lady Warriors



Choctaw Tribal Schools Boys Basketball Champions - CES Choctaws

Lady Warriors, Choctaws Win CTS Tournament

The Choctaw Central Middle School Lady Warriors and Conehatta Elementary School Choctaws claimed this year's Choctaw Tribal Schools basketball championships on Jan. 28 at the Tucker Community Gymnasium.

The Lady Warriors defeated the Conehatta Lady Choctaws 55-24 for the girls title while the Choctaws topped the Warriors 50-40 for the boys championship.

The annual tournament, hosted this year by Tucker Elementary School, features seventh & eighth grade teams representing Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, and Tucker Elementary Schools and Choctaw Central Middle School.

The Lady Warriors jumped on the Lady Choctaws early as they took a 14-6 lead in the opening quarter. Choctaw Central then took a 9-2 advantage in the second for a 23-8 lead into halftime.

The Lady Warriors scored 15 to the Lady Choctaw's 9 in the third for a 38-17 lead. In the final quarter the Lady Warriors added 17 and held Conehatta to only seven points.

LaCaniya Anderson of CCMS scored a game-high 10 points and earned MVP honors. Tia Saunders scored seven & Shemah Crosby six. Jashuntaye Isaac, Maiya Joe, Taelor York, Meloney Thames scored five each & Melanian Jimmie four. Lali Crosby, Rayven McMillan, Jaida Bell,

& Krystyn Martin scored two each.

For Conehatta, Layla Wishork had a team high nine points as Christi Lewis scored six, Leloni Shoemake four, Shaylene Thomas three, & Candace Willis two.

In the boys' final, Conehatta went on a 13-7 run in the first quarter & was highlighted by a half-court shot at the buzzer by the Choctaws' Deshane Wishork.

Conehatta held CCMS to four points in the second as they scored 13 for a 26-11 halftime lead.

CCMS had a 11-10 advantage in the third but still trailed Conehatta 36-22.

Zane Lilly of CCMS scored 13 of the team's 18 points in the fourth but come up short as the Choctaws came away with the 50-40 win.

Conehatta's Gerald Isom had a game-high 22 points

as teammate Wishork had 18 points and earned MVP honors.

Ronald Billy and Chris Thomas scored four each and Billie Isom had two for the Choctaws.

Tristen Gibson scored 13 for the Warriors, Kashden Bell six and Dewayne Cotton and Miles Steve scored four points each.

RIGHT, Tourney MVP honors went to Deshane Wishork, left, of Conehatta & LaCaniya Anderson of CCMS.

BELOW, All-Tournament selections were, from left, (GIRLS) Jillian Lasiloo (Bogue Chitto), Layla Wishork (Conehatta), Olivia Willis (Tucker), Jashuntaye Isaac (CCMS); (BOYS) Octavious Jones (Red Water), Zane Lilly (CCMS), Gerald Isom (Conehatta), & Jalen Willis (Tucker). Not pictured were Pernie Arizvu (Red Water) & Jared Cotton (Bogue Chitto).



RWES Science Fair Winners

The following students placed first or second in the school-wide science fair at Red Water Elementary School. They are, kneeling from left, Eladia Martinez, 2nd place; Ansley Wallace, 1st place; Natalie Chitto, 1st place; Carlisle Phillips, 1st place; standing, Ashanti Body, 1st place; Sissie Gibson, 1st place; Gabriel Chitto, 1st place; Ta'Jae Cook, 1st place; & Karidee Willis, 1st place.

SPES releases Honor Roll

Standing Pine Elementary School announced the Honor Roll for the second nine-weeks of the 2015-16 school year. Students on the Chief's List attained an average of 90 or higher. Students on the Principal's List attained a 80 average or higher.

CHIEF'S LIST

First grade - Brady Farve, Yazmine Hickman & Male-na Sockey.

Second grade - Zander

Frazier & Tyris Stokes.

Third grade - Brylee Willis.

Fourth grade - Cameron Reed & Nataysia Willis.

Fifth grade - Taiton Stokes.

Sixth grade - Jaeden Wesley.

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

First grade - Lacy Alex, Bayliss Billy, Ty Briscoe, Hayden Denson, Bryant Jim, & Jakayla Moore.

Second grade - Zahya Amos, Anniston Billy, Yuriana Crosby, Jonas Hardy, Treyton

Lindsey, & Sunshine Thomas.

Third grade - Kaymeree Gibson, Sadie Vaughn & Keira Willis.

Fourth grade - Aiden Alex, Anya Anderson, Jabari Denson, Chloe Wesley, & Fichik Willis.

Fifth grade - Tayen Jim, Christy John, Ruben Mendez, Bishop Reed, Braxton Roach, & Deshaylee Tubby.

Sixth grade - Connor Billy, Ethen Hernandez, Trenton Reed, Thomas Tangle, & Seth Thomas.



CCHS 20+ Club Honored

The 20+ Club at Choctaw Central High School is an organization with membership reserved for those who have scored 20 or above on the ACT. It was created to recognize & reward academic achievement & to encourage other students to strive for excellence on the ACT. Members of the 20+ Club & two students of the 30+ Club were honored. Pictured above, seated from left, are Tayshaun Mingo & Bryce Billy; middle row, Katie Mingo, Jaysari Mitch, Searra Wilson (30+), Lattoriah Johnson, Breanna Isaac, Harvey McMillan; back row, Reyes Willis, Nicholas McMillian (30+), Robert York, Emilee Thames, Coby Smith, Jennard Bollin, Peyton Bell, & Billy Johnson. Not pictured are Dylan Alex, Jasmine Hickman, Dustin Mingo, & Adonis Willis.



Grant Named All-State Cross Country

Choctaw Central High School sophomore Kyannah Grant, left, was selected to the Best of MSPreps 2015 Girls All-State Cross Country Second Team. For the second consecutive year she placed runner-up in the MHSAA Class 3A State Cross Country Championship on Nov. 9. Also pictured is Lady Warriors coach & mother Gwynn Grant.



Billy Signs With East Central

Choctaw Central High School senior Bryce Billy signed a football scholarship with East Central Community College during National Signing Day on Feb. 3. Billy was the starting quarterback the last two seasons & has passed for 2,263 yards with 22 touchdowns. He also rushed for 295 yards & 11 touchdowns. He is also a member of the Warrior basketball team. Pictured above, seated from left, are CCHS Head Coach Jerod "Taco" Thompson, Bryce Billy, mother Melanie Stephens, CCHS Assistant Coach Aleric Keams; standing, CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson & CCHS Basketball Head Coach Brent Farmer.



CCHS Bowling Team Competes in Region Tourney

The Choctaw Central High School Bowling Team competed in the Class I Central Bowling Regional Tournament on Feb. 9 in Tupelo. The Lady Warriors placed fourth & the Warriors placed fifth. Named to the All-Region Team were Mahali Henry (Girls 1st Team), Carlee Jimmie & Breanna Isaac (Girls 2nd Team), & Montel Jordan (Boys 2nd Team). Team members include (LEFT) kneeling, Hannah Anderson; back row, Carlee Jimmie, Breanna Isaac, Ammery Smith, Autumn Lewis, Katelyn Shoemake, & Mahali Henry; (RIGHT) kneeling, Billy Johnson, Derrick Mingo, Montel Jordan; back row, Josh Jordan, Quentin Naneto, Gunnar Tubby, Michael Wilson, & Brannon Farmer. Serving as coach was CCHS Assistant Principal Liddia Hughes.



Warriors Earn Football Honors

Several members of the Choctaw Central High School Warriors football team were honored for their outstanding play in District 5-3A during the 2015 season. Pictured, front row from left, are All Region honorees Bryce Billy (Co-Academic MVP); Dayton Bell (First Team); Harvey McMillan, Jr. (Second Team); Dakota Kennedy (First Team); middle row, Sri Grant (Second Team); Damion Williams (Second Team); Tanner John (Second Team); Titus Jim (Second Team); back row, Anfernee Dixon (First Team); & Jeremiah Robinson (Best Kick Returner).

CCHS Soccer Teams Make Playoffs

The Choctaw Central High School soccer teams earned a berth in the girls & boys Class 1A-2A-3A playoffs. The Lady Warriors (17-3-1) claimed their fourth consecutive division title & made it to the second round of the playoffs before being defeated by South Pontotoc 3-0 on Jan. 30. The Warriors (9-8) made the playoffs for the first time & were defeated in the first round to Independence 4-1 on Jan. 26. Team members include (LADY WARRIORS) Malania Grasshopper, Dana Briscoe, Keyla Mingo, Angelia Morales, Symone Williams, Leighanna Thomas, Breanna Billie, Alexis Sam, Betty Mingo, Hope Pesada, Jayna Ben, Brekaiya Ray, Jayna Thomas, Kalliyah Tubby, Anastasia Ben, Alliyah King, Amiya McMillian, Charlita Gibson, &



Sierra Wallace; (WARRIORS) Wilson Dixon, Jeremiah Robinson, Graviel Velasco, Adam Joe, Jacob Billy, Randale York, Keynon Wilson, Jennard Bollin, Toby Lewis, Forrest Billy, Treyton Ben, Beeman Farmer, Isiah Billy, Coby Smith, Nick McMillian, Jacob Waiter, Josiah Tubby, Peyton Bell, Reyes Willis, & Robert York. Coaches are Aaron Terrell, Sharon Howard & Daniel Thomas.

Business & Bugs

By Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Agent for MBCI

Craig Hilohwa Nickey, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and a sophomore at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville, has an ambition to earn a finance degree, return to the Tribe and serve the Choctaw people. But a job opportunity that's a little off the future accountant's beaten path has arisen.

Assistant professor Dr. JoVonn Hill, a Meridian native, is a research professor in the MSU Entomology Department. Through a grant from

the National Park Service, they are researching the Monarch Butterfly through native wildflower and prairie restoration. Much of this project is taking place near Tupelo.

Since the grant pays for a student worker, the search for a bright, dependable student landed Nickey into this unlikely field, literally.

"The work is unlike anything I've ever done, and I'm really glad to receive such a wide array of exposure to what MSU does, not just in academics, but in research too," said Nickey.

A product of Choctaw Central High School, Nickey believes the education he received prepared him well for the challenges of earning a degree.

"It's a lot of hard work but anyone can do it if they really want to."

Nickey said he highly recommends Tribal students in choosing MSU as their college of choice.

"The atmosphere here is great, the quality of education is very high and it's not too far from home."

Nickey is achieving great things. Not only is he studying hard and making the grades to prove it, but he's working in a field of research that will not only broaden his horizons, but benefit the university and the state while protecting the Monarch Butterfly. He is an example of what MSU is all about - learning, research and service to make a better world.

Congratulations to not only Nick-ey, but to his family, school and Tribe for producing such productive, young people.



MSU sophomore Craig Nickey, seated, is pictured with Assistant Professor Dr. JoVonn Hill of the MSU Entomology Department.

CCHS Hosts Senior Night

Choctaw Central High School honored seniors in basketball & cheerleading during a recogni-

tion ceremony during intermission of the Choctaw Central-Kemper County contests on Friday, Feb. 5. Honored were basketball players Kyree Alex, Tori Johnson, Tiara Joe, Tayshaun Mingo, Bryce Billy,

Harvey McMillan, manager Hananiah Tubby, and cheerleaders Breanna Isaac, Hillary Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, & Autumn McMillan. Melanie Stephens was also honored as CCHS Supporter of the Year.



Lady Warrior Kyree Alex



Lady Warrior Tori Johnson



Lady Warrior Tiara Joe



Lady Warrior Manager Hananiah Tubby



Warrior Tayshaun Mingo



Warrior Bryce Billy



Warrior Harvey McMillan



Cheerleader Breanna Isaac



Cheerleader Hillary Joe



Cheerleader Cecilia Ketcher



Cheerleader Autumn McMillan



Supporter of the Year Melanie Stephens



NEWS & NOTES

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

PEARL RIVER UNIT

The new regular closing hour for the Pearl River Boys & Girls Club will be 6:00 p.m. During 60 percent days, the closing time will be 5:30 p.m.

Hours during Spring Break will be 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Spring Break for students in county schools is March 7-11. Spring Break for students in Tribal schools will be March 21-24 & 28. The Club will be closed on March 25 for Good Friday holiday.

Activities for Spring Break will include: (County School) March 7, Lovern's Arena in Philadelphia; March 8-9, High Heaven Extreme Air Sports in Flowood; March 10, Canal Place Cinema in Philadelphia; (Tribal School) March 21-22, Lovern's Arena; & March 23-24, High Heaven.

Honored as Member of the Month in 2015 included: Ruth Dixon, (Aug.); Gannon Vaughn, (Sept.); Milena Bell, (Oct.); & Kristopher Espinosa, (Nov.).

Artists of the Month included: Brydon Wesley & Clarissa Benally, (Aug.); Sanjaya Chickaway & J'Kaydrin Bell, (Sept.); Tajha Bell & Adrain Frazier, (Oct.); & J'Haven Smith & Lexi Rodriguez,

(Nov.).

Members attending Neshoba School went to Pump It Up in Flowood on Oct. 12 while Tribal School students went on the 14th.

Members from Neshoba went to Party Safari on Nov. 24 while Tribal School students went on Dec. 22.

On Jan. 4, Neshoba members went to High Heaven.

On Feb. 27, all members participated in the Choctaw Wildlife rabbit stick hunt in Attala County.

The Pearl River Boys & Girls Club would like to welcome Tiara Morris as a new member to the staff.



Members visited the Philadelphia Fire Dept. Station #3, Party Safari & Pump It Up in Flowood.

GED Test: "Pass" Score Lowered

Earning a GED just got easier. The company that administers GED testing for many states has lowered the score it takes to pass each subject area from 150 to 145.

Officials with GED Testing Service announced the changes on Jan. 26, explaining that data shows students who took the GED test were being held to a higher academic standard than their counterparts in high school.

Mississippi has adopted the lower test score effective immediately, according to an email to community college educators by Sandy Crist, state director for Adult Education & High School Equivalency, Mississippi Community College Board.

Officials with GED Testing Service also recommend that states grant a GED to students who have taken the test since Jan. 1, 2014, and scored at least 145 in each subject area.

"What this means for Mississippi: We will be issuing an additional 637 High School Equivalency Diplomas – grandfathering those students in from January 1, 2014," Crist wrote in the email.

At East Mississippi Community College, Adult Basic Education Director Jim Bearden said his staff is scrambling to identify students who have passed all or portions of the test under the new

guidelines.

Bearden said his office has already identified eight students who have taken the test and now qualify to receive their diploma. There may be more.

On the GED test, students must earn a passing score of 145 in each of the following areas: Reasoning through Language Arts; Mathematical Reasoning; Science; and Social Studies. Students who earned a 145 or greater in any of the four test areas will not need to retake that portion of the test, Bearden said.

"The pressing need right now is to get the word out so people who have passed part of the test will not be rescheduling to take that part again," Bearden said.

"We want students who have taken the test to review their account, so they don't pay to retake a portion of the test if they do not need to do so."

"I've got a list of 37 or 38 people who have passed parts of the test who do not know that they passed. Some are current students and some are former students. All of my staff are trying to call them to let them know."

Nationwide, GED Testing Service officials estimate more than 25,000 adults will be eligible to receive their GED diploma under the new guidelines, and more than 100,000 now have a passing score in one or more GED test subject areas.

Students who received a passing score under the new guidelines can expect to see their updated scores and information on their MyGED account on March 1. Students who have moved should update their address on their account.

Bearden said the lower score requirement will make it easier for those who have struggled with the test.

"There are a lot of people who took the practice test and could not quite get over the hump, scoring a 147 or a 148. We want to encourage students who have been holding off, thinking they weren't quite ready, to renew preparations to take the test now that the passing score has been lowered."

GED Testing Service has also added two additional performance levels: GED College Ready, used to signify readiness to enter credit-bearing college courses; and GED College Ready + Credit, which may qualify students for up to 10 hours of college credit.

The new GED test performance levels are:

- Pass / High School Equivalency (Score 145 or higher)
- GED College Ready (Score 165 or higher)
- GED College Ready + Credit (Score 175 or higher)

More information is available at www.gedtestingservice.com.



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Little Girls (ages 9-10) Runner-Up
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Rookie Boys (ages 7-8) Runner-Up
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LIL' SOONERS



Little Girls (ages 9-10) Champions
FLIGHTS



Little Boys (ages 9-10) Runner-Up
FLIGHTS



Little Boys (ages 9-10) Champions
MERIDIAN WARRIORS



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Young Boys (ages 11-12) Champions
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The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

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NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

Chahta Immi Recipient of Award

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) was one of three recipients of a monetary award from the Mississippi Band of

Choctaw Indians (MBCI) at the 2015 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec. 3.

The \$7,500 monetary award will go towards the Cultural Affairs Program's (CAP) *Alhipa Chito Ikbi* (drum making)

project. The Choctaw drum is considered the heart of our Choctaw people.

The CAP staff will be seeking the expertise of experienced drum makers as project consultants so the younger generation can acquire skills to make Choctaw drums.

Support and generosity from the Tribal Administration greatly benefit CAP in their endeavor to inspire, promote, enhance, and embrace Choctaw culture. Thanks to all who were involved!

ECCC Teams Up With DCI To Serve Up Native Cuisine

Chef Barry Karrh and the Culinary Arts Program at East Central Community College in Decatur had incorporated a unit on Native American food

pathways and traditions into American Regional and International Cuisine and requested the MBCI to assist with the menu and preparation of the traditional meal.

The purpose for the luncheon was to educate Chef Karrh's students on the importance of Native food traditions and for the MBCI to share their understanding with students. An authentic meal was made consisting of roasted venison leg, pork loin, succotash (squash corn & bean stew), frybread, hominy, tomato salad, blueberry cobbler, and cake.

Choctaw Beading Classes

Before Europeans brought beads over 500 years ago to America, animal bones, teeth, horns, stones, shells, seeds, wood, etc., were carved into beads by Natives. When glass beads were introduced, it became part of the culture of many tribes, including the Choctaws.

Today, CAP hosts beading classes to preserve traditional skills in beadwork using glass beads for necklaces, moccasins, earrings, and all sorts of ornamental coverings.

In December 2015, CAP conducted beading classes in the Pearl River and Conehatta communities.

DCI Special Projects/ Media Program Announces Oral History Project

In August 2015, the DCI Special Projects/Media Program was awarded a grant by the Multicultural Intermediary for Collaborative Action (MICA) to conduct an oral history project.

The goal of Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project (CTEOHP) is to conduct a series of oral history interviews with Mississippi Choctaw elders and create educational materials on Choctaw cultural topics to educate young Choctaws about their heritage. Project activities include collecting cultural artifacts and photographs.

Currently, the CTEOHP staff has begun recruitment

.....continued next page



On Dec. 22, the DCI staff shared Christmas carols with Tribal elders at the Choctaw Elderly Center. Pictured from left are DCI staff members Edna Cotton, Phyllis McMillan, Abrianna Tubby, Jason Lewis, & Jay Wesley as they prepare to sing.



Attendees at the luncheon at ECCC were, from left, Debbie Martin, Phyllis McMillan, Rowena Willis, Casey Bigpond, Priscilla Williams, Chef Barry Karrh, Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Linda Williams, Lorena Alex, & Norma Bacon.



Beatrice Steve works on a beaded Christmas ornament.



Members of the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club participated in the beading workshop.

activities. The project staff is seeking elders who would like to share their stories and wisdom in oral history interviews. Community members are invited to share their photographs, newspaper clippings, video and audio recordings,

artifacts, and memorabilia from the 1930s-1960s. Those interested in participating with the CTEOHP can contact the Special Projects/Media Program at (601) 650-7743.



CAP staff member Lorena Alex (seated third from left) gave instructions to one of the participants at the workshop.



Tribal elders Helen Thompson, left, & Emma King enjoyed the workshop inside the Elderly Activity Center.



Pushmataha’s Final Resting Place

Pictured above after a recent snowstorm is the final resting place of Choctaw Chief Pushmataha in the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Many historians considered him the “greatest of all Choctaw chiefs” & was highly regarded for his skill & cunning in both war & diplomacy. In 1824, Pushmataha traveled to Washington to petition the Federal government against further cessions of Choctaw land. During his visit, he contracted a viral respiratory infection & passed away. He was buried with full military honors. A replica of his cenotaph is on display at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center in Choctaw.

(Photo courtesy of Historic Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.)

Round Comb Workshops

A round comb workshop was held in Crystal Ridge on Jan. 4 and was a big success. The CAP staff instructed participants on applying modern style decorations on the combs using rhinestones. Participants used the new style Choctaw round combs to decorate.

The CAP staff incorporated into their Cultural Activity Workshops series a round comb decorating workshops throughout the fiscal year. Workshops are scheduled on the first Monday of every month, except June and July.

To date, workshops have been held in the Crystal Ridge and Red Water communities and the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center in Choctaw. The elders and CAP staff members met on Jan. 21.

In March, a round comb decorating class will be held in the Bogue Chitto community on Monday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

January was extremely busy for CAP. A collar necklace making workshop was held on Jan. 8 in Tucker and a Choctaw dressmaking class was held in Bogue Chitto on Jan. 19.

CAP also hosted a deer hide tanning event in Conehatta on Jan. 16 and a hog killing work-

shop on Jan. 30 in Pearl River.

The purpose for sponsoring workshops is to bring Tribal members together to share cultural information and tradi-

tion, celebrating and educating participants of Choctaw life ways from time past.

A schedule of upcoming workshops are listed below.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM
WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2016

DATE	ACTIVITY
Feb. 20 (Sat.)	Alhipa Chitto Ikbi Part 1 (Pearl River)
Feb. 23 (Tues.)	Choctaw Shirt Making (Pearl River)
March 7 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Bogue Chitto)
March 8 (Tues.)	Deer Hide Tanning (Bogue Homa)
March 21-25	Princess & Warrior Survival Week
April 4 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Standing Pine)
April 12 (Tues.)	Pottery Ikbi Part 1 (Red Water)
April 19 (Tues.)	Collar Necklace Making (Standing Pine)
April 29 (Fri.)	Earrings Beading (Bogue Homa)
May 2 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Tucker)
May 17 (Tues.)	Beading a Medallion (Tucker)
May 24 (Tues.)	Kabotcha Ikbi (Crystal Ridge)
May 27 (Fri.)	Sash Making (Bogue Chitto)
June 4 (Sat.)	Round Comb Making (Pearl River)
Aug. 1 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Bogue Homa)
Aug. 9 (Tues.)	Blow Guns & Dart Making (Tucker)
Aug. 12 (Fri.)	Medallion Beading (Standing Pine)
Aug. 16 (Tues.)	Headband Making (Bogue Homa)
Sept. 5 (Mon.)	Round Comb Making (Conehatta)
Sept. 2 (Fri.)	Choctaw Dress Making (Conehatta)
Sept. 13 (Tues.)	Pottery Firing Part 2 (Pearl River)
Sept. 20 (Tues.)	Stickball Apron Making (Red Water)

Scheduled time will be from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Lunch on your own from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.). Workshop locations will be mostly at the Facility Building in each community. Participants 10-17 years old must have parental supervision. Child care services will not be provided. With respect, workshop will be postponed if there is a death in that community where the workshop is scheduled. If postponed, it will be rescheduled at a later date. These workshops are for MBCI Tribal members & their descendants. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Cultural Affairs Program at 601 663-7506. Yakokih.

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For more information on elder abuse, contact
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IN MEMORIAM

SEAN MYCHAL PERKINS

Funeral service for Sean Mychal Perkins, 34, was held on Thursday, January 7, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Ricky Thompson, Sr. & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in Phillips Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Perkins passed away on Jan. 1 at Leake Baptist Hospital in Carthage.

He was employed as a bartender at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed fishing, playing stickball, basketball & softball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four aunts & three uncles.

Survivors include his daughters, Daisy'alyne Perkins & Daz'lynn Perkins; sons, Daylen Perkins & Deiman Perkins; four aunts; an uncle; & a host of relatives & friends.

HAYWARD McMILLAN, JR.

Funeral service for Hayward McMillan, Jr., 41, was held on Thursday, January 7, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McMillan passed away on Jan. 2 in Philadelphia.

He was employed as a dealer at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed being around family

& friends, playing air guitar, teaching & playing basketball, & being with his grandson.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, parents & sister.

Survivors include his daughter, Taryn Walking Eagle; son, Brenden McMillan; sisters, Adrienne Tubby & Jolena McMillan; a brother, Teddy McMillan; two grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces & great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

HORACE REED

Funeral service for Horace Reed, 48, was held on Friday, January 8, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Old Canaan Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Reed passed away on Jan. 3 at Michigan Medical Center in Clare, MI.

He was an employee of Keep It Green, Corp. He enjoyed being in sales, traveling, football, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother.

Survivors include his parents, William Reed & Allene Mitch Reed; sisters, DeeDee Grisham-Beckwith & Tondrea Williamson; brothers, Charlie Reed, Tommy Reed, Lannie Reed, Ronnie Reed, & William Hickman, Jr.; stepson, Joey Hamric; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JOANN WALLACE

Funeral service for Joann Wallace, 62, was held on Friday, January 22, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Wallace passed away on Jan. 19 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

She attended Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church & enjoyed playing volleyball, fishing & spending time with her grandkids.

She is preceded in death by her parents, a sister, three brothers, a great-aunt & a great-uncle.

Survivors include three daughters, Mary Johnson, Annie Wallace & Atnea Wallace; a son, Billy Wallace; brother, Don Frazier; sisters, Carlene Mingo & Clara Cotton; a companion, Joey Thomas; 16 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

LA SHUNTIA DAWN JEFFERSON

Funeral service for LaShuntia Dawn Jefferson, 17, was held on Saturday, January 30, 2016, from the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Church. Rev. Tim Tubby & Rev. Glenn Myers officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Jefferson passed away on Jan. 26 at her residence.

She was a senior at Neshoba Central High School where she was a member of the Big Blue Band & the color guard. She enjoyed attending band competitions, playing basketball, cheering, doing beadwork, & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandfathers & great-grandparents.

Survivors include her mother, Ginger McMillan; father, Vincent Jefferson; sisters, VaShunti McMillan & Tiffany Jefferson; brother, Jessiah McMillan; grandmothers, Edna Cotton & Rosie McMillan; five aunts; two uncles; great-grandparents; & a host of relatives & friends.

JAMES EDWIN FRAZIER

Funeral service for James Edwin Frazier, 55, was held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, from the Standing Pine Facility Building. Pastor Curtis Willis, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Frazier passed away on Jan. 27 at Lackey Memorial Hospital in Forest.

He was employed with Choctaw Manufacturing Enterprise in Carthage for 13 years. He enjoyed fishing & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, two grandchildren, two brothers, two aunts, & six uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Nina Frazier & Samantha Bell; a son, Alexander Frazier of Carthage; sisters, Nellie Kirk, Catherine John, Addie Sue Joe, Betty Mae Joe, Sharon Thames, Bernadine Dixon, Ashley Billy, & Sonya Monk; brothers, Joey Joe, Clifton Hickman, Jr. & Raymond Hickman; an aunt; an uncle; 11 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

DONNIE EVANS FARMER

Funeral service for Donnie Evans Farmer, 42, was held on Monday, February 1, 2016, from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Farmer passed away on Jan. 28 at his residence.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran & member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He enjoyed family gatherings, listening to music, grilling, surfing the web, cheering for the Minnesota Vikings, & spending time with his father.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Survivors include his daughter, Tala Rose Hughes; his father, Ervin Farmer; mother, Donna Jimmie; sisters, Shanna Tubby & Ashley Burr; two nieces, three nephews, & a host of relatives & friends.

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RICHARD MASON JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Richard Mason Jefferson, 30, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Lee Farmer & Pastor Dennis Middleton officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Jan. 28 at his residence.

He enjoyed fishing, playing washers, cards, dominoes, softball, & spending time with his son.

He was preceded in death by his father, his wife, grandparents, an uncle, & cousins.

Survivors include his son, Ryder Jefferson; mother, Margaret Jefferson; brothers, Jason Jefferson, Jeffrey Jefferson & Bruce Jefferson; adopted sister, Randi Jefferson; adopted brother, Hunter Jefferson; grandmothers, Kathleen Isaac & Mazola Thomas; grandfather, Morris Jefferson; a companion, Alicia Frazier; & a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews; relatives & friends.

JASON HESTER JOHN

Funeral service for Jason Hester John, 36, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Travis Willis & Rev. Tim Tubby officiated.

Burial was in the John Memorial Methodist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John passed away on Jan. 30 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a member of the Pearl River Community Baptist Church & enjoyed watching *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers & grandparents.

Survivors include his adopted mother, Christine John; sister, Rachel Willis; brother, Jonathan Willis; five aunts; & a host of relatives & friends.

JANICE MARIE STRIBLING

Funeral service for Jan-

ice Marie Stribling, 52, was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, from the Chihowa I Chuka. Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Stribling passed away on Jan. 29 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed fishing, cooking & spending time with family & loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her parents & a sister.

Survivors include her children, Randy Sam, Kevin Sam & Tamekia Morris; stepchildren, Constance Brand & Jamie McDonald; sisters, Wanda Collier, Catherine Lee & Denyse Marcum; brothers, Randy Miller & Eddie Sam; a friend, Chad Davis; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MINNIE BELL

Funeral service for Minnie Bell, 93, was held on Saturday, February 6, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away on Feb. 2 at the Lauderdale Community Hospital in Ripley, TN.

She was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church in Ripley & was known for weaving Choctaw baskets, sewing traditional Choctaw clothing, beadwork, & cooking outdoors.

She demonstrating her skills in Choctaw beadwork & basketry at festivals & museums throughout West Tennessee & surrounding states. Her work was featured in an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution.

She enjoyed going to church, listening to hymns, traveling, beading, making baskets, fishing, & spending time with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, four brothers & a sister.

Survivors include her sis-

ters, Claudia Thompson & Jessie Thompson; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ROBERT LEE BELL

Funeral service for Robert Lee Bell, 78, was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on Feb. 6 at his residence.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army & enjoyed gardening, woodworking, making bird houses & Christmas decor, whittling, doing word searches, & reading the Bible.

He is preceded in death by his parents, three brothers & a sister.

Survivors include three sisters, Ella Mae Isaac, Nan Whiteman & Ruby Thomas; three half-sisters, Shirley Jefferson, Gloria Hickman & Linda McMillan; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

WINCHY BELL

Funeral service for Winchy Bell, 84, was held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from the Pearl River Facility Building. Rev. Doby Henry & Rev. Rocky Gilliam officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away on Feb. 4 at Tennova Healthcare-Dyersburg Regional Hospital in Dyersburg, Tenn.

She was employed with Tupperware for 25 years. She loved fishing, gardening, sewing, cooking outdoors, & visiting family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, five brothers, two grandsons, & a great-granddaughter.

Survivors include her daughters, Pauline LongFox, Mazelle Bell, Linda Rumbo, Bonnie Williams, & Annie Frazier; two sons, Calvin Bell & Newman Bell; 23 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; special brothers, Ricky Willis & John Crawford Willis, Jr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

JEAN MCMILLAN ISOM

Funeral service for Jean McMillan Isom, 84, was held on Saturday, February 13, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father John Edmunds, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Isom passed away on Feb. 9 at her residence.

She was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. She was a retired Choctaw Health Center housekeeper & enjoyed fishing, sewing & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, five brothers, & two sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Mary Elizabeth McMillan & Alice Marie McMillan; two sons, Jimmy Ray McMillan, Sr. & Thaddeus James Tubby; 18 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews & relatives.

LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of Sean Mychal Perkins would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the people who offered their assistance to our family during the untimely death of our beloved father, nephew & cousin. We are grateful to the Tribal programs for making available the cooks & fire-keepers during the wake. Thanks to Choctaw Tribal Maintenance for ensuring we had the necessary equipment as needed & the Office of Communications for all the paperwork. We are so appreciative to the Pearl River Baptist Church for allowing us the use of their facility & staff & to the different churches for singing & providing words of comfort. We thank you all for your prayers & words of comfort. May God bless you all.

- The Family of Sean Mychal Perkins

Come join us.....

Sunday
10:00 am



Wednesday
6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOLIFECCHOCTAW.ORG

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church

130 Campus Drive
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

5:00 p.m. - Evening Service

2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. George Dixon

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family

Ministry Class

7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Jaroe

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32

Happy 21st Birthday to my best friend, Daishia Mo'unique Billie, on Jan. 21, from Mare J... Happy 21st Birthday to my best friend, Katalina Morris, on Feb. 9, from Mare J.

Happy Birthday to Michele "Moss" Jim on Jan. 21, from Baby Sis, Bro, Falun, Dale Amos, Ashley B., Darry & Elizabeth Williams & family.

Happy Birthday to our friend Kathie Marie Henry on Feb. 22, from your cousin (P.R. downstairs).

Happy Birthday to our cousin, James "Falun" Bell, from your family in B.C., Arb, Sip Sara, Karene, & Kat. Keep



your head up!

ON OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

To Joey - We made it this far through the mercy of God. We been through trials & tribulations, but we made it. Many more is coming but the spirit of Christ will see us through. Just got to hold on a little longer & it'll be worth it after all. God did say, "I give you rest," & He has. Thank you for being

my friend & partner in Christ. Prayer changed our lives & I wouldn't take anything back from the past, but just hold onto Jesus for he who holds our future. Love, Debi.

Spring Creations set for April 1-2

The 7th Annual Spring Creations Arts & Crafts Show is scheduled for April 1-2 at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, located on Hwy. 16 West of Philadelphia.

The event, co-sponsored by Native Creations, LLC. & Glow Enterprises, showcases hand crafted or hand-finished items made by talented local & statewide artists & crafters.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

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Winter Guard Places at Competitions

The Choctaw Central Winter Guard recently placed first in the Scholastic A division of the Mississippi Indoor Association's Guard Show in Oak Grove & Brandon. They scored 62.83 in Oak Grove & 68.82 in Brandon. Congratulations!

Weaving Healthy Families Project

Would you like to help us envision and strengthen healthy families?

→What you will do: Tribal community members (ages 12 and above) and professionals (who work with community members) can engage in some or all of the following activities:

- Life history interviews •Family interviews •Focus groups
- Observation •Questionnaire

This study is aimed at:

- (1) Defining healthy families;
- (2) Finding out how many people have overcome violence and trauma;
- (3) Lowering family conflict; and
- (4) Improving the well-being of community members.

→Participants will be paid for their time and effort. If you might be interested in helping tribal families, please contact:

Catherine Burnette, PhD, LMSW at cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495.



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 4 years.

Tribal Members Win \$1,000

Three Tribal members were winners of a nationwide giveaway by H&R Block. The Choctaw office of H&R Block, located at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw, announced winners of the \$1,000 A Day Giveaway which included Alicia Vaughn, Leslie Tubby & Gabriel Bell. H&R Block was giving away \$1,000 to 32,000 people for a total of \$32 million during the first month of tax season. Anyone who filed at a participating H&R Block office by Feb. 15 was automatically entered into the sweepstakes. Pictured below is winner Leslie Tubby, left, as she was presented with her check by tax associate Cheryl Crane.



In addition, there will be entertainment, Native cultural demonstration/exhibitions, and food featuring cultures from our area.

For more information, call 601-650-8871, 601-416-2013 or 601-416-0010.

Attention Stickball Coaches

2016 World Series Stickball Coaches Meeting
Monday, March 7 • 6:00 p.m.
Entertainment Trailer
Pearl River Community

We will hand out official roster forms & go over matters of concern. If you are unable to attend, please send a designee. This meeting is for COACHES ONLY. For more information, please contact World Series Stickball Commissioner Thomas Ben at 601.650.1611.



H&R Block office manager Alex Bell presents the \$1,000 check to winners Alicia Vaughn (pictured above right) & Gabriel Bell (pictured below left.)





CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

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www.choctaw.org



MBCI To Air FNX

(CHOCTAW, Miss.)

– On March 1, the Choctaw-run MaxxSouth channel returned to the air full time with First Nations Experience (FNX). FNX is the first and only public TV network in the U.S. dedicated to Native American content.

“I am so pleased that our Tribal channel is once again on the airwaves,” said Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. “As an added plus, our new programming provider, First Nations Experience, will feature Native American programming. Channel 5 has been off-air since TLC left in early 2014. We are opening an exciting new chapter for our viewing audience.”

This partnership between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ Choctaw Video and FNX will still allow for Choctaw News to be aired at 12:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Special programming specific to Choctaw will be aired on a pre-emptive basis.

The creation of Choctaw Video and airing Choctaw programming on Channel 5 began on July 1, 1990, by the late Bob Ferguson. The Learning Channel (TLC) was just beginning, and Ferguson used their daily programming in between his news show “WHTV Pictorial Report.”

.....see FNX, pg. 5

Lady Warriors Conclude Memorable Season At Final

Thirty-two wins in a season is a remarkable achievement for any high school basketball program. But a 33rd win would have been epic for the 2015-2016 Choctaw Central Lady Warriors.

Choctaw Central saw an 11-point half-time lead evaporate in the second half of the MHSAA Class 3A girls state basketball championship on March 12 as the Booneville Lady Blue Devils came back and stunned the Lady Warriors 58-49 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

Booneville is no stranger to the Lady Warriors as they ended Choctaw Central’s run in the 2015 state tournament with a 51-49 win in the quarterfinal.

“We played a real good first half but the second half we couldn’t put the ball in the basket. They turned up their defensive pressure and we just didn’t handle it very well,” said Lady Warriors head coach Bill

Smith.

Choctaw Central made 13-of-32 field goals, 4-of-12 three-pointers and 2-of-5 free throws in the first half. The second half was a different story as the Lady Warriors were held to 1-of-19 field goals, 0-of-5 three-pointers but made 15-of-23 free throws.

“We couldn’t make a shot. We were 1-for-19 from the floor. We made some free throws, but Booneville got hot. They scored their first seven points in the third quarter and we couldn’t get the momentum back after halftime,” said Smith.

The Lady Warriors concluded the season with an overall 32-3 record.

Smith told his team after the game to keep their heads up and be proud of the year they had.

“All three teams that beat us (Newton,



Choctaw Central’s Melody Jimmie goes for a basket against a Holly Springs defender during the Class 3A state tournament quarterfinals at Jackson State University on March 6.

Olive Branch and Booneville) are very good basketball teams. We have get ready to do it again next year. We made it to the championship game. Hopefully we can get back here next year and finish what we started.”

.....see SEASON, pg. 8

Anderson Appointed To Key NACIE Post

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – President Barack Obama announced on Feb. 19 his intent to appoint Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE).

In a press statement released from the White House, Pres. Obama said, “I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to serve our country. They bring their years of experience and expertise to this Administration, and I look forward to working with them.”

Anderson will serve alongside 14 other members. The council advises the Secretary of Education on funding and administration of programs as it relates to

Indian children and adult education under Title VII, PART A of Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

“The responsibility of education in our tribal communities is very important to our future. I am extremely honored in President Obama’s confidence in my leadership and I look forward to serving alongside the other gifted and capable members of this council,” said Anderson.

Currently in her second term as Tribal Chief, an office she has held since 2011, Anderson serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Tribal Government and, among other tasks, oversees the Tribe’s gaming, hospitality, and family destination resort industry, multiple business enterprises and economic development initiatives, comprehensive educational and

healthcare systems, Reservation-wide law enforcement and police protection, Choctaw Tribal Courts, social services programs, recreation and community development, and natural resources.

Anderson is also responsible for the administration of more than \$450 million in annual Tribal budgets and Reservation-wide program operations for the benefit of all Tribal citizens.

Previously, she served as Tribal Council representative for the Red Water Community from 2003 to 2011 and Director of the Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources from 1984 to 2003.

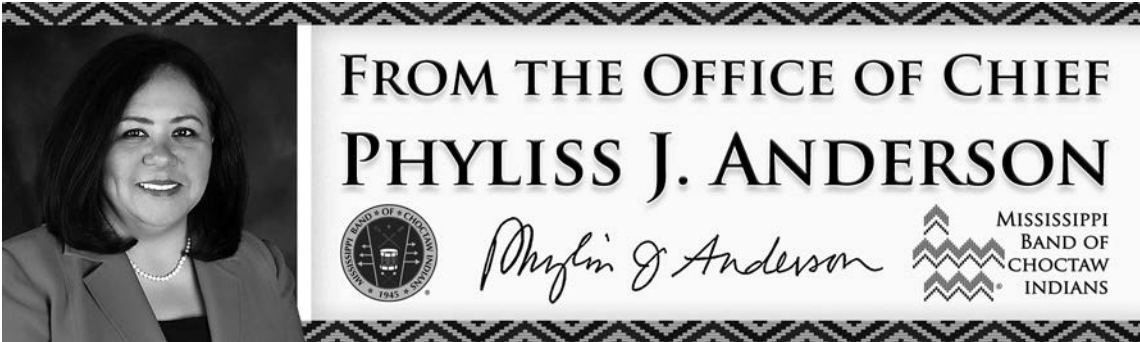
Anderson chairs the boards of the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, Choctaw Health Center, Chahta Enterprises, the Choctaw Residen-



*Tribal Chief
Phylliss J. Anderson*

tial Center Enterprise, and the Choctaw Shopping Center Enterprise.

She is a member of the boards of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., the National Congress of American Indians, Choctaw Missions, and the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Advisory Board. She received an A.A. from East Central Community College in Decatur.



Halito! The change of seasons is upon us all and thankfully spring is in the air. Fortunately, our tribal communities experienced a very mild winter. Exciting spring sports, such as softball and baseball, will begin in a matter of days. Several of our stickball teams are already practicing and preparing for the State Games of Mississippi and World Series Stickball tournaments. Those of you with green thumbs are heading outside to plant your crops and flowers.

Here at Tribal Headquarters, my staff and I are as dedicated as ever, preparing for many upcoming events, including Community Field Days, CCHS Graduation and the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair in July.

CCHS Lady Warriors

Our CCHS girls basketball team once again took us to the Big House in Jackson. They defeated the Holly Springs Lady Hawks in quarterfinals at Jackson State University on March 5th, and were victorious against the Velma Jackson Lady Falcons in the MHSAA Class 3A semifinals at the Mississippi Coliseum on March 9th.

It was a tense and electri-

fying game on March 12th as the girls returned to the Big House and competed against the Booneville Lady Devils for the 3A championship. Although they did not get the win, they did an outstanding job. This was another great season of CCHS Lady Warriors basketball.

I am so proud of our players and coaches! Their hard work and dedication have produced wonderful results. Rest assured, the Lady Warriors will continue to improve and they will take us all back to the Big House. I thank everyone who has supported our athletes throughout this season, and I encourage you to continue giving them your support.

CCHS Winter Guard

The CCHS Winter Guard also had an exciting competition season as they performed in various competitions across the state, such as at Pearl High School, South Pontotoc High School, Wayne County High School, and Clinton, Miss.

The Winter Guard also traveled to Tate High School in Pensacola, Florida on February 27th to compete in the Winter Guard International Pensacola Regional. They competed against other units

from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Their successes can be attributed to long hours of practice and dedication to their performance.

On Saturday, April 2nd, they competed in the Mississippi Indoor Association Color Guard Championships at the Mississippi Coliseum and came away with bronze medals. Their show was beautifully designed and executed. I am proud of the Winter Guard members and Director Elter Wilson for their outstanding successes.

Lego League Tournament

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held its 14th Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament at Pearl River Elementary School on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Over one hundred students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in this year's event.

Awards were announced at the end of the tournament and trophies were given out to the teams for their outstanding performances.

The Judges' Award was presented to System Overload

from Pearl River Elementary School.

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Oka Homma representing Red Water Elementary School.

The Robot Design Award was presented to Choctaw Central Middle School's The Triple "R" Squad.

The Project Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Garbage Terminators.

The Core Values Award was presented to OTG Squad from Tucker Elementary School.

The Champion's Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's LEGO Warriors.

Congratulations to all of the winners and participants of the FIRST LEGO Tournament!!

Science Fairs

Recently, students in the upper and lower grades in the tribal elementary schools competed in their respective district science fairs. It is exciting to our students to take what they learn in class and apply it in their science projects.

I congratulate all the winners who advanced to the regional science fair at Mississippi State University. It is my hope that more of our tribal youth venture into the fields of math and science and be a part of ever-changing discoveries to help improve our world.

CHC Celebrates One Year of Service in New Facility

It has been one year since we cut the ribbon and opened the doors to the new Choctaw Health Center facility. On March 10th, a one-year anniversary reception was held to celebrate the continuing progress of the Tribe's healthcare program.

The need for a new Health Center facility had existed for many years, and through the collective efforts of tribal officials and other parties, we made this vision a reality. But our great progress cannot and should not stop here.

In the past year, we established new services and brought in more specialists to the Choctaw Health Center, so that tribal members do not have to travel far to get the care and attention they need.

I look forward to working with our capable health center staff to continue building upon our successes to ensure tribal healthcare needs are met.

CHC Passes Accreditation Surveys

I extend my congratulations and appreciation to the Choctaw Health Center Staff for earning continued accreditation from the DNV GL's accreditation program. This accreditation not only demonstrates the staff's commitment to providing exceptional healthcare services for tribal members, but also shows the CHC meets or exceeds patient safety standards that has been

.....continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:
COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350
TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis.....Communications Manager
Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer
Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer
Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Congratulations to the CCHS Winter Guard as they captured bronze medals at the Mississippi Indoor Association Color Guard Championships at the Mississippi Coliseum on April 2.

set forth by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

This accreditation program now involves annual hospital surveys and encourages hospitals to openly share information across departments and to discover improvements in clinical workflow and safety protocol.

For those of us not trained in the healthcare arena, this might be hard to understand, but it is a big accomplishment for our Choctaw Health Center. Keep up the great work!

Elder Roofing Project Update

In February, we launched a \$1 Million Elder Roofing Program to provide needed roof repairs and replacements to the homes of tribal elders living and owning a house on the Choctaw Indian Reservation. Applicants were accepted in February through the Elder Outreach Program.

We have teams visiting applicants to assess roof damage and make needed repairs to the homes of our tribal elders.

I appreciate the Choctaw Elder Center Staff for working with these applicants and our development and construction teams that helped put this project together and see it through its successful completion.

National Advisory Council on Indian Education

Recently, I was asked by President Barack Obama to serve alongside 14 other Native American Council members on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education (NACIE). The responsibility of education in our tribal communities is very important to our future and I am committed to building stronger resources and opportunities for our tribal youth.

Congress established the NACIE to ensure issues of importance to Indian Education would no longer be ignored or given less attention than rightfully deserved.

The Council advises the Secretary of Education on funding and administration of education programs as it relates to Indian children and adults. The Council also advises the Secretary and the President on personnel needs, including whenever a vacancy occurs for the Director of Indian Education.

This Council will also serve as an excellent opportunity to exchange new ideas and successful methods for Indian Education.

I am extremely honored in President Obama’s confidence in my leadership and his trust

in the Choctaw people. I look forward to serving alongside the other gifted and capable members of this council.

Recreation End-of-Season

The Tribal Recreation department has been very busy in the last few months organizing sports games throughout our communities. I appreciate their efforts in ensuring tribal members have an enjoyable time participating and attending these sporting events.

Spring Festivals

The spring festival season has already begun and will continue throughout the month of April. It’s always wonderful to see our children engaged in our culture, and it is an opportunity for community members to gather together and enjoy some fellowship and good Choctaw food.

Upcoming Community Field Days

With spring, we also enjoy a time of visiting our tribal communities during our annual Community Field Days. I am excited to share information about the progress our Tribe is making and also about projects that are in the works.

I enjoy the good times and happy memories made during these field days. As we have in years past, we will have fun activities for all ages and have fellowship over a picnic style meal. Dates will be announced per community via door-to-door flyers, the MBCI Facebook page, tribal email, and www.choctaw.org.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Office of Public Information at (601) 663-7532. I hope you and your family will join us for this fun activity.

Closing

To some people, springtime represents a new beginning.

The grass turns green, trees come alive again and flowers begin to bloom. I encourage all of you to take a moment and reflect on the different aspects of your life and rededicate your time and attention to the things that matter most.

For me, as your Tribal Chief, it is most important that the Tribe and our tribal members are successful in all endeavors to ensure a happy, healthy and bright future. I appreciate all of your encouragements, prayers and support. Let us keep our Tribe moving forward together.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson
Tribal Chief

News from the Tribal Distribution Office

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO REMEMBER!

- Tribal Court - May 13, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- Direct Deposit - June 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
- Other Changes Listed Below - June 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. Please list your children anytime you make any changes whether to change your last name or address. (All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.)

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card). It is very important to list your dependants as well on the form.
- Address changes - If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time do have an expiration.
 - Anytime you do an address change for yourself, **always** include all of your dependants.
 - We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone
- Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do direct deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution Office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.

Ole Miss Students Visit Tribe

Spring break for college students usually means going home, laying out in the sun at the beach or even staying on campus to study. Sixteen University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) students, however, gave up their spring break vacation and traveled to Choctaw, Miss. on March 14-18.

Students in Professor Bill Rose’s Honors Journalism



Ole Miss students pose with Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemaker. Kneeling, from left, are Chi Kalu & Ariel Cobbert; middle row, Princess Shoemaker, Josie Slaughter, Lana Ferguson, Tori Hosey, Tori Olker, Mrudvi Bakshi, Taylor Bennett; back row, instructor Bill Rose, Mitchell Dowden, Kate Hayes, Slade Rand, & Will Crockett. Not pictured are Anna McCollum, Zoe McDonald & Mikki Harris.

course came to the Choctaw Reservation to learn more about our Tribe for a magazine

to be published in the fall of 2016.see VISITORS, pg. 13



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

From the CHC Business Office

We would like for you to have the best patient experience at the Choctaw Health Center. Here are some quick reminders from the Business Office about referrals.

REFERRALS:

In order to be eligible for Purchased and Referred Care, you must live on the reservation or in one of the ten counties: Attala, Winston, Noxubee, Leake, Neshoba, Kemper, Scott, Newton, Jasper and Jones.

REFERRAL APPOINTMENTS:

- If the doctor at CHC decides you need a non-emergent referral, please allow a week or more before getting an appointment. We ask that you contact us if you have not received a phone call or a voice mail message.
- For **NEW and FOLLOW-UP appointments**, pick up your referral at the Business Office. You should not be asked for a co-pay at the appointment.
- For **FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS**, call to inform us or bring your appointment card at least one week in advance. If you bring it the day before, we may not have sufficient time to obtain all medical information from your referring physician. We want to ensure you have all information needed for your appointment.
- Be sure to take your **Driver's License or photo I.D., insurance card**, and medications to all doctor visits. Some providers will not see you without **photo I.D.**
- Be sure to call the doctor's office **within 24 hours** if you **CANNOT** make your **REFERRAL** appointment. Notify the Business Office as well. Call the doctor's office to cancel or reschedule your **REFERRAL** appointment. There will possibly be a **FEE to you**, for "no show" from that doctor's office. CHC cannot cover these "no show" charges.

BILLS/STATEMENTS:

- If you have received a bill from a previous referral, this means that we have not received it at CHC. Providers will send the bill to us or you, not both. We rely on you to bring in the bill to us timely. CHC pays only if you had a referral for the visit. Please be aware when you go to the doctor outside of CHC on your own without a referral, you are responsible for the bill and/or copay.
- Bills/statements brought in to CHS will require two forms to be filled out. This includes information about the bill/statement and an authorization for us to request your bill information from the doctor. According to HIPAA guidelines, providers will not speak with us about your bill without this authorization form.
- We receive a high volume of bills/statements. Please allow us at least 30 days to receive the information from the doctor's office or hospital.

For more information, contact the CHC Business Office at 601-389-4060.



CHC Celebrates One Year Of Operation

The staff of the Choctaw Health Center celebrated their first year in operation at their current location at 210 Hospital Circle off New Frog Level Road in Choctaw on March 10. MBCI Chief of Staff RaeNell Vaughn (left) & CHC Director Tina Scott (right) spoke briefly of the new services & specialty clinics being offered at the facility. The staff, along with patients & guests, enjoyed light refreshments in the lobby after a special rendition of "Happy Birthday" was sung by staff members in attendance.



Why Do We Need to Brush, Floss Our Teeth?

Submitted by the CHC Dental Department

doesn't it!

#1 - To Reduce the Plaque Build Up What is plaque?

Plaque is a sticky, white film that grows, (yes grows!), on our teeth every day. I say grow because plaque has germs and bacteria that weakens the enamel.

Plaque begins to build at the gum line around our teeth. It can build to the point of looking like cottage cheese and take on the colors of what we eat. Plaque can be a yellow color instead of the white film.

The feel and taste of your mouth when you get up in the morning is the feel and taste of the germs that have been growing in your mouth all night. This happens because as we sleep, the saliva stops flowing and the germs sit and feed on what we ate last.

And, of course, we provide a perfect incubator with our 98.6 degree mouth! Makes you want to brush your teeth,

How does this affect our mouth?

These germs eat away at the enamel over time. You may have noticed white spots at the gum line of your teeth, your children's teeth or your friend's teeth. These areas are a sign of weak enamel.

Plaque begins to build at the gum line of our teeth and this also allows the gums to be affected by the germs in plaque as well. These germs cause red, swollen and bleeding gums called *gingivitis*. This is the first step of gum disease.

If plaque isn't removed daily with correct brushing and flossing, it eventually hardens into calculus, or tartar. This can't be removed with a brush or floss.

Tartar can build below the gum level to the point that germs and toxins eat away at the bone that holds our teeth in. This is usually painless, but you can have sensitivity to cold and hot in the later stages,

along with mobile teeth.

This is not an "old person's" disease. We all have plaque in our mouth and this is where it begins. It doesn't happen overnight. It is a slow disease that can begin in the early 20's, but the symptoms and effects don't show up until later in life. How much do you feed your plaque?

How can we reduce the plaque in our mouth and our children's mouth?

The best way to remove plaque is by brushing and teaching your children to brush. We should brush our teeth twice a day for at least two minutes. Brushing removes the plaque on the outside, inside and tops (chewing surface) of our teeth. Flossing once a day removes the plaque from where our teeth touch.

The bristles of the brush are too fat to get between the teeth, but the food gets pushed down under the gums and between teeth when we bite and chew. Using the circular motion, instead of back and forth, brushes the food and plaque from under the gums.

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Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Health Needs and Your Budget?

Medicaid or CHIP May Be the Answer! You Can Enroll Any Time - But Why Wait?

Connecting Kids to Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer low-cost or free health insurance for you and your family. In many states, more adults than ever before may qualify for Medicaid.

Who may be eligible?

- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents (and other adults, depending on the state)
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Youth "aging out" of foster care

Eligibility depends on income, the size of your family and the rules in your state.

When you enroll, you can get:

- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms & colonoscopy
- Prenatal and maternity care
- Hospital stays
- Mental health care
- Needed medications
- Children get vision and dental care (adults may get these benefits too)

American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP:

- Can still get care from your Indian care provider.
- Don't have to pay premiums or co-payments.
- Indian trust income is not counted to determine eligibility and is protected from Medicaid estate recovery rules.

You benefit by having greater access to health care services.

Tribes benefit because their health programs get more resources.

To find out if you qualify, visit www.KidsPlus.com or call Outreach Services Program 1-601-389-4114 Durnene Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4280 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.



Bok Homa Casino Donates to Pinebelt Non-Profit

Bok Homa Casino recently donated a commercial freezer to a Laurel/Hattiesburg area non-profit agency that was in desperate need to store food.

Pinebelt Association for Families provides food to 75 grandparents on a fixed income and are responsible for raising their grandchildren. The agency was having to turn down healthy food donations because they had no way to store it.

Pearl River Resort received a monetary donation request from the Pine-

belt Association for Families to purchase a new freezer. Resort officials wanted to help so they decided Bok Homa Casino will purchase and donate the entire \$3,000 freezer to the group so they are able to more quickly have access to the needed appliance that allows them to assist their community members.

Sylvia Forster, Executive Director Pinebelt Association for Families, said it was a big surprise to receive the freezer from Bok Homa Casino.

“As they say in the south, it’s been a blessing!”

Jason York, Executive Director of Development/Operations for Bok Homa Casino, said the Pinebelt Association for Families was a very good organization to help as they assisted



Representatives from Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville presented the new freezer to members of the Pinebelt Association for Families.

Remember, children are NOT old enough to brush their own teeth until around 7 years old. Also, this doesn’t mean they will remember, so getting in the habit of brushing your teeth along with your children sends an important message of health.

#2 - Avoid Sipping and Snacking

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. Think about “super sizing” soft drinks and the size of candy bars.

For example, the average teenage boy drinks 81 gallons of soft drinks every year! Alarming, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially those who snack throughout the day

or some call it grazing – constantly eating and sipping high sugar.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect on our teeth is drastic. Remember, I talked about the plaque germ weakening the enamel of our teeth? When we take in sugar from food or drinks, it becomes an acid in our mouth. We all know battery acid will eat holes in clothes and this is what the acid in our mouth does to our weak enamel.

Every time a sugar is put in our mouth, an acid attack begins and can last up to 15 minutes. If we are constantly eating, acid is constantly attacking our teeth. This is why we encourage eating sweets, along with meals, so the attack is over at one time.

If you sip on a sugar drink, (like soft drink, Kool-aid, Gatorade, or Powerade), while watching television, movie or throughout the “game,” sugar is constantly turning to acid and attacking our teeth.

ALL food has some sugar in it, except water. Please read the labels. You notice I mentioned Gatorade and Powerade. They are not a safe change from soft drinks. The second ingredient in them is High Fructose Corn Syrup. This is another name for sugar.

These drinks were designed for people burning a lot of energy during a hot workout. Sitting at home watching a sports game in December doesn’t count! They have no nutritional value and this is causing more problems for small children than we might think. Think about it.

What can you do to reduce tooth decay?

- Sugary foods and drinks should be eaten with meals. Saliva production increases at this time and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food from the mouth.
- Limit snacks. If a snack is given, be sure it’s nutritious.
- If you allow gum, make it sugarless. Chewing gum after

eating also increases saliva production. This could work if you are at a ball game with no chance to brush any time soon.

- Watch what you drink and what you offer your children. No sipping or sippy cups constantly during the day. Even milk has some sugar in it.
- Remember #1, remove plaque germs twice a day.



Tribal Member Involved in Ceremony

Huntington Ingalls Industries’ Ingalls Shipbuilding division authenticated the keel for the company’s seventh U.S. Coast Guard National Security Cutter, Kimball (WMSL 756) on March 4. The ship is named in honor of Sumner Kimball, who organized and directed the U.S. Life Saving Service and was a pioneer in organizing all of the different facilities associated with the service into what eventually would become the U.S. Coast Guard. Kay Webber Cochran (center), wife of Sen. Thad Cochran (left), R-Miss., was the ship sponsor and had her initials welded onto a steel plate to signify the keel had been “truly and fairly laid.” Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ member and Ingalls Shipbuilding employee Jerry Wesley (right) welded the initials onto the plate.

(Photo by Lance Davis/HII)

FNX

continued from page one

Today, Choctaw Video records and edits footage of many Tribal events that take place throughout the year. These events are featured in Tribal news broadcasts and for DVD sales.

FNX was created at KVCR Public Television in San Bernardino, California, through a gift from founding partners, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. It

went on the air on September 25, 2011.

FNX is currently carried by stations broadcasting in 9 states from Alaska to Illinois, including the metro areas of Chicago and Los Angeles.

“FNX is thrilled to have the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians join our family of national affiliates, said Alfredo Cruz, General Manager of FNX. “We look forward to

serving the community and strengthening our programming partnership.”

“FNX is committed to being a vehicle for indigenous voices across the Americas and around the world. I hope the Choctaw Tribal audience finds our programming to be a valuable addition to their viewing options and that FNX enriches the hearts and lives of all who watch.”

Choctaw Tribal Schools Host District Science, Engineering Fairs

The Choctaw Tribal Schools hosted their annual District Science & Engineering Fair for upper & lower grades in February as local fair winners from Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Standing Pine, Pearl River, Tucker, & Red Water Elementary Schools & Choctaw Central Middle School participated.

The upper fair (grades 6-8) was held on Feb. 5 & the lower fair (grades K-5) was held on Feb. 26. Both fairs were held in the Tucker Elementary School Gymnasium.

Forty-eight projects were entered in the upper fair & 105 projects in the lower fair.

Students placing first

through third advanced to the 2016 Region V Science & Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University in Starkville. The upper fair for grades 6-12 was held on Feb. 23. The lower fair will be held on April 7.

Listed below are students who placed in their category at their respective fairs.

UPPER FAIR (Grades 6-8)

Sixth Grade

Chemistry - 1st, Neera Bell; 2nd, Sissie Gibson; 3rd, Chad Tsosie; Honorable Mention, Zaylee Shoemake.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Crystal Routh; 2nd, Kyla Farmer &

Alyssa Farmer.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Kacey Nickey; 2nd, Cadence Nickey.

Physics - 1st, Makayla Hickman; 2nd, Peja York; 3rd, Connor Billy.

CLASS III (Grades 7-8)

Botany - 1st, Malakai Charlie; 2nd, Ivaniel Jefferson; 3rd, Breann Mingo.

Chemistry - 1st, Brannan Jim; 2nd, DeShayna Jefferson; 3rd, Ashanti Body; Honorable Mention, Leilani Charlie.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Cody Roach & Brighton Jimmie; 2nd, Isley Mingo & Amaya McMillan; 3rd, Tyiesha Dixon; Honorable Mention, Oren Ferris.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Traiton Martin; 2nd, Jaylen Bell; 3rd, Alarys Johnson; Honorable Mention, Sherente Tubby.

Medicine & Health - 1st, Kristina Taylor.

Physics - 1st, Elliyonna Chickaway; 2nd, Tara Tsosie; 3rd, Alyssa York.

Zoology - 1st, Evangeline Hall.

Best of Fair recipients were Cody Roach & Brighton Jimmie.

LOWER FAIR CLASS I

(Grades K-3)

Kindergarten

First, Bryceton McMillan; 2nd, Ashton Stephens; 3rd, Zachary Polk.

First Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Jacoby Willis.

Chemistry - 1st, Nakota Willis; 2nd, Aiden Bell; 3rd, Annabella Anderson; Honorable Mention, Brady Farve.

Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences - 1st, Shastyn Lewis; 2nd, Tali King.

Physics - 1st, Zathian Waiter; 2nd, Amaliyah McMillan.

Zoology - 1st, Nuseka Dixon.

Second Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Aston Eades.

Botany - 1st, Carlisle Phillips; 2nd, Shallasen Jimmie; 3rd, Miyah Nickey.

Chemistry - 1st, Conner Willis; 2nd, Yuriana Crosby; 3rd, Anniston Billy; Honorable Mention, Hayden Willis.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Ferris Tubby; 2nd, Jennalee McMillan.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Makailah Moore; 2nd, Ansley Wallace.

Physics - 1st, Zahya Amos; 2nd, Kodi Thomas; 3rd, No-lynn Bell.

Third Grade

Botany - 1st, Akaysha Polk;

2nd, Teresa Willis.

Chemistry - 1st, Ajay Lewis; 2nd, Alleiyah Butler; 3rd, LaChantay Jefferson; Honorable Mention, Charles Tubby.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Nathanael Nickey; 2nd, Karidee Willis.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Callie Amos.

Medicine & Health - 1st, Raiyleigh Perry; 2nd, Almera Charlie; 3rd, Karli Bell.

Physics - 1st, Brylee Willis; 2nd, Ta'Jae Cook; 3rd, Javon Williams; Honorable Mention, Kethan Anderson.

Zoology - 1st, Kaegan Henry; 2nd, Katrina McMillan.

CLASS II (Grades 4-5)

Fourth Grade

Biochemistry - 1st, Zavian Tubby; 2nd, Destinee Williams.

Botany - 1st, Tristen Henry; 2nd, Kailyn Steve.

Chemistry - 1st, Chloe Wesley; 2nd, Talayah Kinsolving; 3rd, Kezmain Carter; Honorable Mention, Koie Williams.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - 1st, Keondrae Anderson; 2nd, Isaiah Johnson; 3rd, Aaliyah Clemmons.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Miles Taylor; 2nd,

.....continued next page

Title I PAB Meeting Held in Choctaw

Fifteen Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) members, along with 15 guests, recently met at the Ayipa Café in Choctaw for the February working lunch.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Sandra Willis Weaver as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for February 2016. Sandra has worked in the school system for 31 years. She has worked with the Early Childhood Cultural Education Program, the Follow-Through Program, Head Start, and Pearl River Elementary School's Special Education program since 1986.

She attended elementary & middle school in Pearl River and graduated from Choctaw Central High School. Sandra furthered her education at Hinds Junior College, East Central Junior College, & Mississippi State University.

"When I first start-

ed teaching we were trying to get the students to speak English, whereas today, we encourage them to speak Choctaw," said Weaver.

She & her husband, Douglas, have been married for 31 years. They are the parents of two sons, Joshua & Zachary.

Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, presented information about the Choctaw Youth Healing to Wellness Court Services Program. Andrew Jones, Division Coordinator, was also on hand to answer questions.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, April 12. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pearl River Elementary School Principal Suzanne Hyatt, left, presents Sandra Weaver the February Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award.



First through third place finishers in sixth grade & Class III.



First through third place finishers in Class I.



First through third place finishers in Class II.

Gabriel Chitto; 3rd, Zaiyah Isaac.

Physics - 1st, Natashia Willis; 2nd, Talon Bell; 3rd, Manny York; Honorable Mention, Miley Billie.

Fifth Grade

Chemistry - 1st, Brendon Morris; 2nd, Kacie Wallace; 3rd, Kaydee Taylor; Honorable Mention, Sharyl Thomas.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - 1st, Catherine Jim; 2nd, Ayers Chickaway; 3rd, Zarius Johnson; Honorable Mention, Patsden Williams.

Medicine & Health - 1st, Deshaylee Tubby; 2nd, Lexie Love; 3rd, Kaiden Anderson; Honorable Mention, Aison Jim.

Physics - 1st, Tyra Billy; 2nd, Coby Willis; 3rd, Delshaun Thomas; Honorable Mention, Abram Cotton.

Best of Fair recipients were Kaegan Henry (Class I) & Chloe Wesley (Class II).

The Choctaw Tribal Schools extend a special "thank you" to professionals who gave their time & talents to participate as



From left are Best of Fair recipients Kaegan Henry of Class I & Chloe Wesley of Class II.



judges during the event.

Judges for the upper fair included Wes Wallace, Elray King, Roy Smith, Willie Solomon, Virginia Willis, Bobby Smith, Jim McAdory, & Mitzi Reed.

Lower fair judges were Wes Wallace, Liddia Hughes, Willie Solomon, Jim McAdory, Susan Strickline, Candy Jimmie, Nick Monk, Michelle Ferris, Jo Billie, & Mitzi Reed.

Williamson Reaches 1,000 AR Points

Anastasia Williamson, seventh grader at Conehatta Elementary School, accumulated 1,000 AR points. A student must read a book on their level & take an AR test on the book to receive points. We are very proud of her & congratulate her on this accomplishment.



CES Beta Club Collects Canned Goods

The Conehatta Elementary School Beta Club recently collected canned food for a service project. They presented the food to Doby Henry of the Choctaw Baptist Center in Choctaw to be distributed among those who are in need.



CCMS Students Present Sidewalk Solution

In our seventh grade year, our science class noticed a problem in the Choctaw Central Middle School courtyard. When it rains, water washes soil away, causing erosion.

It would end up on the sidewalk where students, staff & visitors had to walk. The sidewalk was not a clean or safe area to walk due to the mud.

Our science class researched the problem and offered a solution to the problem. The class divided into groups with each group addressing a different issue.

We investigated and researched various ways to correct the problem, such as raised planters, drainage issues, sidewalk gutters, and the appropriate grass to reseed the area.

The class presented the problem and solution to our principal, Mr. Harpole, and to Mr. Lewis. Mr. Lewis thanked us for our presentation and informed us that he would address the problem. The problem is now corrected and the sidewalk is no longer unsafe to walk on.

(Written by Melanian Jimmie, Aliyah King & Rayven McMillan.)



Students place at District Science Fair

Congratulations to the following students who placed at the Choctaw Tribal Schools District Science & Engineering Fair: Gabriel Chitto, 2nd place, Math & Engineering; Ansley Wallace, 2nd place, Math & Engineering; Carlisle Phillips, 1st place, Botany; TaJae Cook, 2nd place, Physics; & Miley Billie, Honorable Mention, Physics.



SEASON continued from page one

Choctaw Central's most recent appearance in the MHSAA state basketball tournament is a continuation of what began in 1996 when the Lady Warriors won the very first state championship in school history with a win over then undefeated and number-one ranked West Tallahatchie Lady Choctaws for the Class 2A title.

The Lady Warriors claimed four more state titles during the 20-year span, with Class 2A wins in 1997 and 1999 and 3A wins in 2004 and 2005, in addition to countless division and south state titles. They were also named the number one team in Mississippi in 2004 and 2005.

Not to be outdone, the Warriors added two Class 2A championships of their own in 1998 and 1999.

A tradition of excellence has been established at Choctaw Central and the 2015-'16 Lady Warriors took the task of achieving those high expectations.

With no seniors in the starting rotation, the Lady Warriors were determined to make it back to Jackson as they won their season opener on Nov. 7 with a convincing win over Class 6A power Meridian 71-34.

They reeled off 15 straight wins and claimed tournament titles at the East Central Community College Invitational, Leake County Invitational and their own Choctaw Central Invitational to cap off 2015 undefeated.

The Lady Warriors suffered their first defeat on the season on Jan. 5 as Newton came away with a 46-45 win.

Choctaw Central rebounded with four straight victories in division play before suffering their second defeat of the season to then-number one team in the state Olive Branch 66-53.

The Lady Warriors rallied with six straight wins to finish undefeated in division play enroute to winning two more games for the division tourney title.

Choctaw Central ran the 3A playoff gauntlet with wins over St. Andrews Episcopal, Port Gibson, Holly Springs, and Velma Jackson in the state semifinal before their final matchup with Booneville.

Although the final result was not what the Lady Warriors had foreseen, be certain Choctaw Central will make another run at excellence next season. It's a tradition.

Warriors End Season At Division Tourney

By Darron Tubby, Staff Writer

The Choctaw Central Warriors saw their 2015-2016 basketball season come to an end on Feb. 16 as they dropped an 89-75 decision to the Choctaw County Chargers in the first round of the 5-3A division tournament.

The Warriors finished the season with an overall 12-16 record and 5-6 in the division.

Division 5-3A was considered the toughest in the state, which was evident in the 2016 MHSAA Class 3A boys tournament as two teams from the

division - Kemper County and Forest - met in the final with Kemper County winning the state championship.

To their credit, the Warriors had defeated the eventual state champion 90-75 during a division contest on Feb. 5.

"One of our accomplishments this year was our split with Kemper County," said Warriors head coach Brent Farmer. "Looking back at that game, I think it showed a lot of potential of what kind of team we can be if we all get on the same page in the future."

Farmer said the season



Members of the Warriors 2015-2016 squad included (in no order) Tayshaun Mingo, Dylan Nickey, Bryce Billy, Myrick Anderson, Dayton Bell, Demanuel Willis, Trent Hundley, Tiger Briscoe, Harvey McMillan, Tanner York, Quentin Anderson, Dillon Farmer, Brias Bell, Sri Grant, Rome Jefferson, & Caleb Williamson. Coaches were Brent Farmer (head) & Jimmy Tangle (assistant).

started on a rocky note but by mid-season the team pulled together and played as serious contenders in the division.

"A lot of young players stepped up and played really good basketball for us. As we got into division play, I knew Forest and Kemper County were going to be pretty tough teams to beat. We ended up playing Choctaw County in the division tournament and they ended up beating us."

Choctaw Central had three seniors on the team - Bryce Billy, Tayshaun Mingo and Harvey McMillan, Jr. - and Farmer will once again look to

the younger players to fill the void next season.

"Bryce and Tayshaun were very instrumental this season because they had a lot of experience and showed a lot of leadership. Bryce was the big man and did what he could to hold down the inside and get us some rebounds and points. For his size, I thought he did really well. Tayshaun was more of a floor general for us, getting everybody in the right spots. He did a really good job for us this year. Harvey did his part coming into the game and doing what he was supposed to do like a senior should."

Farmer is hoping to build upon the experience the Warriors gained coming off the last season. They will once again be a young team, having four returning for their senior season. Having a state champion in the division is giving the Warriors something to strive towards.

"I believe we are headed in the right direction. Next year, we got some more young players coming in and hopefully we can get them on board with these guys that got a lot of playing time to step up. I'm looking for a better season next year."



Despite their overall 12-16 record, the Warriors played well during the second half of the regular season, which included a Feb. 5 division contest win over eventual Class 3A champion Kemper County.



CONGRATULATIONS
ON A
GREAT SEASON

CHOCTAW CENTRAL
LADY WARRIORS



From
Chief Phyliss J. Anderson
and the
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians!



RWES Honors Dr. Seuss

Red Water Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss's birthday Feb. 29-March 4. Students and teachers had fun dressing up as their favorite Dr. Seuss characters during the week.



Gibson.

Fourth grade - Aiden Alex, Anya Anderson, Jabari Denson, Cameron Reed, & Fichik Willis.

Fifth grade - Tayen Jim, Christy John, Bishop Reed, & Braxton Roach.

Sixth grade - Sierra Ben, Connor Billy, Tedra Denson, Aleyona Sockey, & Seth Thomas.

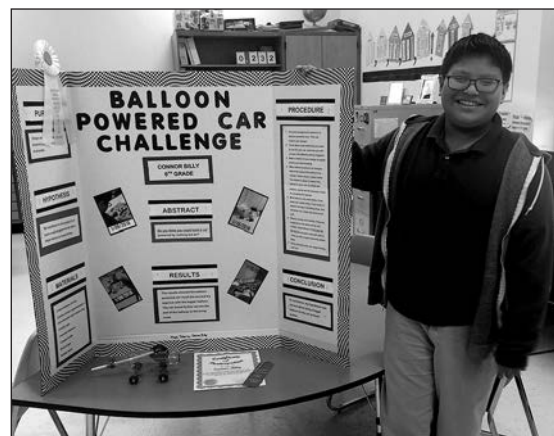
Student Art Project

In January, the third & fourth graders learned how to make *Chokash Alhlh Shikalla Chih* (beaded edges of a heart.) The class learned how to say Choctaw words by using the items to make this project.

Words they learned included: *Chokash Nittak* (Valentine's Day), *chokash* (heart), *pōnoshi* (thread), *chifak* (needle), *homma* (red), *shakalla nihi* (seed bead) & several more.

Students enjoyed making this project & learning how to speak Choctaw during Choctaw Language Class.

District Science Fair Winners



Pictured below is Connor Billy, 3rd place, Physics.

Tucker Elementary School News

First Grade Busy Bees

Do you like to be the best YOU can be? Our first graders are serious about doing their best & reaching their goals. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Whatever you are, be a good one!" This is a motto we follow every day.

We recently focused on famous Americans throughout history. Did you know Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States? Well, we do. We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. & Rosa Parks as well.

Our class was excited to embark on an adventure to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson. We love science & working on interesting projects. We love spending time in nature & getting our hands dirty! In fact, we recently learned about natural resources, such as rocks & soil.

Did we mention most of us are working on grade 2 lessons on I-ready? We are not only mathematicians, but are excelling in reading. We love learning to sort & compare data using graphs & can tell you all about two-dimensional shapes. We strive to read as much as possible. Most of us are reading on a second or third grade level. In fact, three of our students read fourth grade level Accelerated Reading Books.

We learned so much this

.....continued next page

Standing Pine Elementary School News

SPES Honor Roll

Standing Pine Elementary School announced the Honor Roll for the third nine-weeks of the 2015-16 school year. Students on the Chief's List attained an average of 90 or higher. Students on the Principal's List attained a 80 average or higher.

Chief's List

First grade - Brady Farve.
Second grade - Tyris Stokes.
Third grade - Brylee Willis.
Fourth grade - Chloe Wesley & Nataysia Willis.
Fifth grade - Taiton Stokes & Deshaylee Tubby.

Sixth grade - Jaeden Wesley. Principal's List

First grade - Ty Briscoe, Hayden Denson, Yazmine Hickman, Bryant Jim, Jakayla Moore, & Malena Sockey.

Second grade - Yazzlyn Alex, Zahya Amos, Anniston Billy, Yuriana Crosby, Zander Frazier, & Treyton Lindsey.
Third grade - Kaymeree



SPES Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss as they dressed as their favorite characters.





LEFT, A student had fun making his own snow!



RIGHT, Valentine King Astin Eades & Queen Miyah Nickey.

nine weeks about amazing animals that live in the forest. Here is an example of a favorite animal from a student after recently reading the story, "Where Are My Animal Friends?"

"My favorite animal from Where Are My Animal Friends? is raccoon. I like raccoon because he climbs a tree. Next, I like raccoons because they get food at night. Finally, I like raccoons because they run fast. This is why my favorite animal is a raccoon."

We are the first graders of Tucker Elementary! We are smart, kind, creative, & energetic! Keep a lookout for us in the future because if you think we are amazing now, we are just getting started!

Second Grade Math Fun

The second grade class had fun learning math in February. They studied how to collect data to display on a tally chart. As part of an assignment, they voted on a Valentine King & Queen. Winners were Astin Eades & Miyah Nickey. Students enjoyed voting & making their tally chart. They then celebrated a Valentine Party to honor their king & queen.

Second grade students include LaBrandon Chickaway, Astin Eades, Dannon John, Ashlynn McMillan, Jennalee McMillan, Miyah Nickey, Kodi Thomas, & Ferris Tubby.

Third and Fourth Grade News

For several weeks, Ms. Hanson & Mrs. Savell's third & fourth grade classes have integrated Language Arts & Mathematics Vocabulary. Students have learned vocabulary for measurements through writing & mathematical application.

Hanson & Savell are looking for ways to keep students interested in real world experiences through integrating across subject areas. Some concepts learned are square, inches, area, & perimeter.

Snow Lesson

Miss Haylee's class is learning about the weather! Students composed their very own weather radars that we use every morning to deter-

mine weather & snow. It even snowed IN OUR classroom! How exciting!

Students used a secret mixture & added water to make our very own snow & were even able to take it home. After creating our snow & learning how snow is made, we went to the freezer for ice. Yum! A few days after making our own snow, we were able to have a REAL snow day outside! We love learning about the weather.

Mississippi State Capitol Field Trip

Seventh & eighth graders from Tucker enjoyed an educational field trip to the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson.

Representative Scott Bounds greeted students & were taken on a guided tour of the historical building. Students were then introduced to the House of Representatives by Rep. Bounds.

Senator Jennifer Branning also introduced the group to members of the senate. The

group was also greeted & welcomed by Rep. Michael Ted Evans.

Students enjoyed lunch at the popular downtown restaurant, Two Sisters, afterwards. Chaperones were Pam Breland, Karla Clearman & Brandon Farve.

District Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the following Tucker students who placed in the District Upper Science and Engineering Fair.

Sixth Grade

Makayla Hickman, 1st place, Physics.

Cadence Nickey, 2nd place, Engineering.

Chadwick Tsosie, 3rd place, Chemistry.

Alyssa Farmer, 3rd place, Earth Sciences.

Class III

(7th & 8th Grades)

Ellioyanna "Lacie" Chickaway, seventh grade, 1st place; Tara Tsosie, seventh grade, 2nd place; Alyssa York, eighth grade, 3rd place, Physics.

Leilani "Bo" Charlie, sev-

enth grade, Honorable Mention, Chemistry.

Malakai Charlie, eighth grade, 1st place, Botany.

Kristina Taylor, eighth grade, 1st place, Medicine and Health.

Sherente Tubby, eighth grade, Honorable Mention, Engineering.

Choctaw Adult Education Can Help You Get a GED!

Today's job market seems to be getting more and more competitive. There are fewer jobs available and more people applying for this smaller number of jobs. One way to improve your chances of getting one of these jobs is to improve your educational background.

For instance, if you lack a high school diploma, you can get a GED (General Education Development) diploma. Passing the GED test is a way to earn a secondary school credential without graduating from a traditional high school.

This is how Choctaw Adult Education can help you. If you come to Choctaw Adult Education class, we can help you figure out what you need to improve in order to pass the GED test.

We have many resources that can assist you with improving your academic skills, including staff members with knowledge and experience, current books and other written materials, and internet access at most sites that will provide you with information you need.

GED is an exam with four separate test sections (Science, Social Studies, Reasoning through Language Arts, and Reasoning through Mathematics) that measure knowledge and skills that are expected of

.....see GED, pg. 12



Officials welcoming students to the capitol included Rep. Michael Ted Evans (far left), Sen. Jennifer Branning (second from left) & Rep. Scott Bounds.

Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest Announced

Choctaw Social Services is announces their annual Child Abuse Prevention Poster Contest. Deadline is Friday, April 15, no later than 4:00 p.m. at the Choctaw Social Services building in Choctaw.

Contest is open to students in grades K-12th who are Choctaw tribal members or enrolled in a federally recognized tribe & attending a Choctaw Tribal School or public school (Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Winston, & Jones County Schools.)

Entries will be judged in the following

categories: K-2nd; 3rd-5th; 6th-8th; & 9th-12th. First & second place finishers will be awarded cash prizes. In grades K-8th, first place will receive \$20; second place \$15. In grades 9th-12th, first place is \$30, second place \$25.

Posters will be displayed at Choctaw Social Services Child Abuse Awareness Event in April and will be featured in the *Choctaw Community News*. All posters become the property of Choctaw Social Services and will not be returned to the

student artist.

Poster must focus on the theme of "Light up Awareness for Child Abuse." Students may enter only one poster. The back corner (bottom right) of the poster entry must contain the following information: full name, parent's name, phone number, grade, and school name.

Parents will be notified by a staff member if their child placed. For more information, contact Brittany Bell at 601-650-1741.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF CHAHTA IMMI

Workshops Held in February

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted four cultural activities workshops during the month of February.

The first one was a round comb workshop in the Red Water community on Feb. 1. The purpose of the workshop was to offer participants the new style comb and how to apply rhinestones to it.

The second workshop, held in the Crystal Ridge community, was on headband making. It took place on Feb. 4.

The third workshop, *Alhipa Chito Ikbi* (drum making), was conducted by CAP Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond at the dance ground in the Pearl River community on Feb. 20.

Funding for the drum making project was provided

through a donation from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in December 2015.

Participants were taken into the vicinity of Beaver Dam to search and select proper wood for their creation as part of their training. Teddy Hickman, of Pearl River, took charge of the woodcutting process.

Drum making is great therapy for the body and mind and gives drum makers a great



The photo illustrates how well Teddy Hickman played in the woodcutting role of making the drums. (Photo courtesy of Bradley Isaac, Jr.)

sense of pride to create a drum with their own hands.

The last workshop offered in February was a shirt making class on Feb. 23. Due to the effects of mother nature, the session was held in the morning hours only. Although the weather affected the training session, turnout was good but the class was rescheduled.

Sash Making Workshop

Everett Sam, of the Pearl River community, conducted a sash making workshop during

.....continued next page

GED continued from page eleven

high school graduates.

Choctaw Adult Education offers you the chance to take the GED Official Practice Test (OPT) on the computer. Because the GED exam is taken on computer at a designated testing site, it is important to get comfortable with the test by practicing on the computer.

Once you have taken and passed the OPT, Choctaw Adult Education will assist you with registering and paying for the GED test. We can

even give you a ride to the testing site.

Refer to the following schedule listed below and come to Adult Education class in your community at the designated times.

MONDAY

Pearl River (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bogue Homa (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tucker (Day)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Bogue Chitto (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Pearl River (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

Pearl River (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Bogue Homa (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Conehatta (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Standing Pine (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Pearl River (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Pearl River (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Crystal Ridge (Day)
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Red Water (Day)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

THURSDAY

Pearl River (Day)
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Conehatta (Day)
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Bogue Chitto (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Standing Pine (Night)
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

For more information or transportation to class, call 601-650-1756, or come by the Choctaw Adult Education office in the Manpower Training Center in Choctaw.



A Choctaw shirt making class was held on Feb. 10.



Seated from left are Lorena Alex, Everett Sam, Diane Ben, & Trudy Jimmie at the sash making workshop.



Standing from left are Demetrius Williams, Trudy Jimmie, Curtis Willis, Jr., & Priscilla Williams at the DCI's cultural information booth at Ridgeland High School's Multi-Cultural Diversity Fair.

CHOCTAW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
& EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DEADLINE - May 30, 2016 for the "FALL" Term

COURSE OF STUDIES:

- Associate Degree Nursing
- Licensed Practical Nursing
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Culinary Arts Technology*
- Business & Office Technology
- Office Assistance Certificates*
- Construction Trades—Carpentry*
- HealthCare Data Technology
- Child Development Technology
- Industrial Maintenance Trades
- Cosmetology *
- Automotive Technology *
- Welding—Certificate*
- Collision & Repair

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
COURSE LISTINGS

Contact The Vocational Education
Program Angeline King or Bernadine
Dixon @ 601-650-1745 or 601-650-1749

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS are available at
the Choctaw Manpower Training Center
Vocational Education Department
All documentation is required before the
deadline date. INCOMPLETE
APPLICATIONS will not be accepted.

*SOME TRAINING COMPONENTS
MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONCE
A YEAR.*

"STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE"

a recent Staff Development Day at the CAP conference room. Sam brought several beautiful sashes, which appeared to be of archival quality he had made, to utilize as samples.

Tribal Members Participate in Diversity Fair

On Feb. 10, several Tribal members and DCI staff members participated in the Multi-Cultural Diversity Fair at Ridgeland High School in Ridgeland. The event was sponsored by the Madison County Schools.

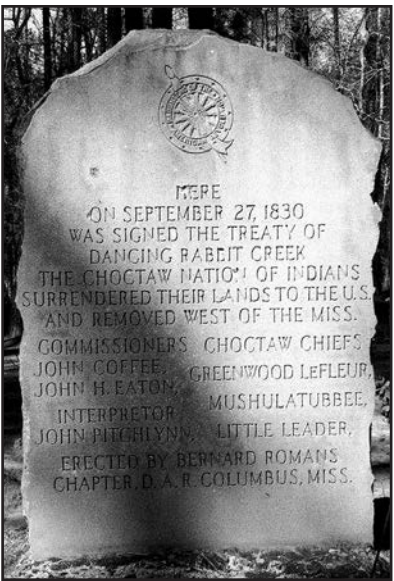
Tribal members showcased the Choctaw culture to diversified groups of various countries. MBCI Traditional Dancers also performed several Choctaw dances. A variety of food representing cultures from around the globe were available for sampling.



The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek Site

The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was signed between the Choctaw Tribe & the U.S. Government on September 27, 1830, in the southwest corner of Noxubee County, Miss. The treaty ceded 11 million acres of Choctaw homeland in Mississippi to the U.S. The treaty also carried into effect the removal of the Mississippi Choctaw to Indian territory, what is now the state of Oklahoma. Tens of thousands of Choctaws walked the 800-kilometer journey to Oklahoma on what is known as the “Trail of Tears,” as many Choctaws died during the trek. In 1831, the treaty was ratified by the U.S. Congress & allowed Choctaws who remained in Mississippi to become the first major non-European ethnic group to gain recognition as U.S. citizens. A monument, donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution, was erected on the site of the treaty signing where it stands today.

(Photos courtesy of Tribal Archives, located at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center)



PUSHMATAHA’S CENOTAPH

In the Jan./Feb. 2016 edition of the Community News (pg. 17), it was reported that a replica of the late Choctaw Chief Pushmataha’s cenotaph was on display at the Chahta Immi Cultural Center (CICC) in Choctaw. According to a center staffer, the original cenotaph is housed at the CICC while the replica is on display at the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. We regret any inconveniences that may have occurred.

VISITORS continued from page three

Each year, Prof. Rose selects topics for his students to study. At the end of the semester, the class creates a magazine featuring articles on their respective topics. This semester, the story of the Choctaw people will be featured alongside the Chickasaw.

Students conducted interviews and learned a great deal about the Choctaw. They started their adventure with a tour of the reservation and an informational session at the Office of Public Information. They also visited the Chahta Immi Cultural Center and experienced a Choctaw Expressions event with traditional Choctaw food, demonstrations of stickball stick making, rabbit stick making & throwing, beadwork and clothing.

During a Beaver Dam stickball practice, students enjoyed watching the players showing off their skills, and those brave enough even participated. The students ended their trip by attending Tucker Elementary’s Spring Festival and enjoyed meeting our Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake.

The journalism students covered topics such as the Nanih Waiya mound, Choctaw history, past and present chiefs including Chief Martin and Chief Anderson, culture & traditions, the Choctaw Health Center, judicial process (specifically Peacemaker and Teen Courts), economic development, education, religion, language, stickball and Tribal member-owned businesses. Over the course of five days, the students conducted over 40 interviews.

Every step the journalism students took there was a photographer with them. They went everywhere! Attending softball and baseball games, waking up early every morning to take scenic pictures and taking pictures of anything and everything they could.

It was an enjoyable experience for the Ole Miss students and a great opportunity for our Tribe to share our rich historical and cultural legacy.



Several of the Ole Miss students took a hands-on-approach to cultural activities, such as hunting with a rabbit stick, using a lathe to form a stickball stick and cooking outdoors.

CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER

featuring
CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People

The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through “Choctaw Expressions” - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION

GENERAL ADMISSION	\$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT	\$5
MILITARY DISCOUNT	\$5
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID	\$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE)	FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5)	FREE

IN MEMORIAM

BEVERLY ANN WILLIS WALLACE

Funeral service for Beverly Ann Willis Wallace, 56, was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Wallace passed away on Feb. 13 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was employed with the Tribal Finance Office & Accounting Department. She was a member of the Pearl River Hunting Club & enjoyed pow wows, cooking, sewing, playing washers, dominoes, cards, fishing, & being with family & friends.

She was preceded in death

by her parents, a brother & a grandson.

Survivors include her husband, Michael D. Wallace; daughters, Renada Lilly, Tialenia Ben & Aleshia Chapman; a son, Kendall L. Wallace; sisters, Gloria Willis, Glenda Willis, Jenny Lewis, & Cindy Willis; brothers, Gordon Willis, Jr. & James D. Willis; 9 grandchildren; an aunt, uncle & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ERIC SHANE CHARLEY

Funeral service for Eric Shane Charley, 39, was held on Thursday, February 18, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. John Smith & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Charley passed away on Feb. 14 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed playing stickball with Beaver Dam & spending time with family & friends.

He was a fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers & Texas Longhorns.

He was preceded in death by his mother, son, aunt, grandparents, two great-aunts, & three great-uncles.

Survivors include a daughter, Breanna Charley; sister, Veronica Thomas; brother, Verdon Thomas; stepfather, Vernon Thomas; a special companion, Karen Smith; a great-uncle; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JOHN SCOTT YORK

Funeral service for John Scott York, 59, was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Deacon Ricky Thompson & Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in Phillips Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. York passed away on Feb. 20 at his residence.

He enjoyed music, working on cars, carpentry, & home construction.

He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, grandparents, & a sister.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia York; two daughters, Lora Leigh Voyles & Jodi Colado; two sons, Jason Potter & Jeremy Scott Bridges; sisters,

Karen Burns & Sharon Hockett; two stepchildren, Teresa Goolsby & Gary Clanton; 10 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DEL SHANNON MINGO

Funeral service for Del Shannon Mingo, 48, was held on Friday, February 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Mingo passed away on Feb. 22 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Baptist by faith. He was employed with Chahta Enterprise & ABS. His hobbies included cheering for his favorite Cleveland teams & listening to music.

He is preceded in death by

his grandparents.

Survivors include his parents, Wendell & Maline Bell; a half-sister, Christina McMillan; six aunts, an uncle, & a host of relatives & friends.

L.C. WILLIS

Funeral service for L.C. Willis, 54, was held on Sunday, February 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Leonard Jimmie, Jr., Rev. Duane Reinhardt, Rev. Leonard Ben, & Rev. John Stephens officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away on Feb. 25 at his residence.

He worked with the Choctaw Police Department & Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends.

.....continued next page

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. George Dixon

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32

Welcome To



Preaching Every Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of the late Sean Mychal Perkins would like to acknowledge he was preceded in death by his parents, Calvin Perkins, Jr. & Joycie York Perkins. He passed away on Jan. 1. Funeral service was held on Jan. 7 & burial was in Phillips Cemetery in Choctaw.

Come join us.....



Sunday 10:00 am Wednesday 6:30 pm

Spirit of Life Christian Center

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
Pastor Thomas Ben

601-389-5446
Visit us on the web at:
SPIRITOLIFECCHOCTAW.ORG

HUMBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is truly a time when our faith is tested. It has not been easy to accept the death of our beloved mom, Ruby Mae (Bell) Willis. While we are for certain that she is in a more pleasant & joyous place, it has been extremely difficult to let go.

We wish to express much gratitude for the consoling gestures offered through phone calls, texts, visits, & the flowers sent. First & foremost, however, we thank the Lord for giving us strength during our trying time. Next, we are absolutely grateful to the Tribe's Administration/Government Services for the food assistance, Choctaw Social Services for their help with arrangements, the Tribal Day Labor Program for providing us with patient workers as fire-keepers, Choctaw Recreation for needed assistance, the Tribal Maintenance Department for their hard work & support, to Cyrus & TaRita Ben, & to the Choctaw Police & Fire/EMS Departments for the care shown to us at such an unfortunate moment.

We also wish to acknowledge those who prepared the food during the wake & after the funeral, as well as to those who brought food. Much gratitude goes to the Spirit of Life Christian Center for the use of the beautiful facility; & to those who served integral parts during the lovely service — Pastor Thomas Ben, Minister Curtis G. Willis, Sr., the pallbearers, Elijah Ben, Nana Frazier, Josh Peoples, Karla Keats, Phillip Bread, the Pearl River Baptist Church Choir, & singers from the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center — we are appreciative of your willingness to assist. We also thank John E. Stephens Chapel & Funeral Home for the care, compassion, & understanding as to whom we entrusted our loved one to.

We extend a very special thank-you as well to Bonnie, Deb, Louise, & Nigel for all your help, thoughtfulness, & guidance.

To all of you we have mentioned, always know your sympathy, empathy, condolence, & counsel has directed us to the path of healing while continuing our livelihood. Thank you for helping us to grieve, cry, laugh, & live.

- The Children of Ruby Mae (Bell) Willis
Lois Keats, Jerome Willis, Herman Willis, Tim Willis, & Sandra Williams

friends & listening to music.

He is preceded in death by his parents, eight sisters, three brothers, two foster brothers, & three grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Lena Willis; daughter, Rachel LeAnn Willis; son, Eric Brian Willis; step sons, Alan Martin, Joseph Martin & Wesley Martin; sisters, Nellie Garcia & Marlene Richwine; brothers, David Willis & Felton Willis; foster brother, Leonard Ben; 15 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MATTHEW DAVID COMBY

Funeral service for Matthew David Comby, 27, was held on Monday, February 29, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Comby passed away on Feb. 26 in Choctaw.

He was employed with the Pearl River Resort since 2007. He loved listening to music, playing video games, joking with his friends & co-workers, & taking care of his pets.

He was preceded in death by his brother, a niece, grandparents, & great-grandparents.

Survivors include his mother, Susie Henry; father, David Comby; sisters, Tonya Henry & Briana Gibson Bell; a brother, Bryant Comby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

GERALDINE JOHN

Funeral service for Geraldine John, 67, was held on Saturday, March 5, 2016, from the Red Water Community Gymnasium. Ricky Edwards & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. John passed away on March 2 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She spent most of her life as a housekeeper & a babysitter. She enjoyed watching daytime

television, doing word finds, reading the Bible, & listening & singing Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband, Mike John, Jr.; daughter, Sara John; sons, Kenneth John & Daryl Solomon; sisters, Mary Frances Sam & Marjorie Hunter; a brother, John Lee Tubby; an aunt, two uncles, & a host of grandchildren & great-grandchildren, relatives, & friends.

OWEN P. WILLIS

Funeral service for Owen P. Willis, 72, was held on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Willis passed away on March 9 at Regency Hospital in Meridian.

He enjoyed watching western shows on TV, taking walks & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, brother, nephew, granddaughter, &

three great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his son, John E. Willis; sisters, Willie Mae Ben, Betty McMillan & Mary Alice Mingo; 19 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY LEE BELL

Funeral service for Jimmy Lee Bell, 61, was held on Monday, March 14, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on March 11 at the Choctaw Health Center.

He was a Baptist by faith. He worked as a tree planter then a janitor at the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. He enjoyed fishing, watching WWE & Western movies, playing stickball with Bok Cito, & spending time with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, a sister & four brothers.

Survivors include a son,

Shannon Bell; two sisters, Sandra Willis & Lillie Wallace; & host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

FREDERICK STOLIBY, SR.

Funeral service for Frederick Stoliby, Sr., 68, was held on Sunday, March 20, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Gerald Willis & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Stoliby passed away on March 17 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a Army National Guard veteran. He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, hunting, watching Choctaw Central High School games, & working at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center.

He is preceded in death by his parents, wife & a brother.

Survivors include his daughter, Pam Stoliby; son, Abe Stoliby; sisters, Lynette Omen-Rojo & Renea Frederick; a special friend, Delilah Gibson; two grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

AB
mechanical, inc.

Heating & Air Conditioning Service



A&B Mechanical, Inc.
P.O. Box 6003
Choctaw, MS 39350
(Office) 601-656-4818
(Fax) 601-656-4418
*Allen Peoples, President/Owner,
Chohta Owned & Operated*

CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER

OUTDOOR MARKET

**COME JOIN US!!
A GREAT PLACE
FOR A SALE!!**

*Yard sales, fundraisers,
food sales, or bake sales
for individuals, organizations
or ball teams.*

Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call DeeSandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

.....
*Multi-Vehicle Discounts
SR 22
Safe Driver Discounts*
.....
**Come in for a free quote
or call 601-663-0971**
**300 Choctaw Town Center
Suite 106**
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)
HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only

Prevent Elder Abuse

**Identify It!
Report It!
Stop It!**



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

*For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774*



REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

Wetip
Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)
or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD, up to \$1,000!**



RIGHT, Here's wishing this wonderful little lady a Happy Belated Birthday. Nakota Willis celebrated her 7th Birthday on Jan. 23. May the Good Lord continue to bless you & watch your every step in your future. We wish you many more blessings as you continue to grow. We love you very much. From Momma Ashley, Connor, Trish, Sonny & Cookie, Carol & Ricky.



Happy 5th Birthday to Mr. Redainian D. Thomas on Dec. 1, 2015. With lots of love, giant hugs, & kisses from your mom, dad, siblings Nedra, Jeter & Gibby, & your niece, Tweety... Happy 20th Birthday to Miss Rene-dra D. Thompson on Feb. 23, 2016. We love you! From mom, dad, Tweety, & siblings Jeter, Gibby & Dain.

Happy Birthday to Greg Tubby, Sr., from your friends in BC & RW... & to Jerry "Cacha-bi" Hickman in BC, from Baby Homie Gurl.

Happy Birthday to Morgan Dale Jefferson on March 31, from Mom Michele, Aunt Karene, Peggy & family, Uncle Arb, nieces, nephews, sisters, brothers, your wife Shena & kids, cousins Sara Bell & Falun. We love you Boy! Have fun!



Happy Birthday to Cinidria & Cenitria Smith on March 13, from your family & friends.



Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people (about healthy families, overcoming trauma and violence, lowering family conflict and improving the well-being of community members)!!

Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards

- What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 and above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45
- OR, if you prefer, you can contact Catherine at: cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the information for you)



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.



*It was just one year ago
God sent an angel on
this earth
You are a precious gift
who has
Filled our lives with
happiness*

Happy 1st Birthday Ethan! Love, Mom, Big Sis Mylee, grandparents, aunties, uncles & rest of the family.

Longest Walk 5 to make stop in Choctaw May 16-20

Runners and walkers participating in The Longest Walk 5: "Calling an End to Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence," will be making a stop in Choctaw, Miss. May 16-20.

The nationwide journey, which began on Feb. 13, 2016, in La Jolla, CA and will conclude at Washington, DC on July 15, 2016, calls attention to seek guidance on drug related issues that are causing devastation on Indian Reservations and communities in the U.S.

"Our mission is to cross this continent on foot, seeking cultural and spiritual solutions to end drug abuse and domestic violence. The destruction is at a pandemic stage," said American Indian Movement co-founder and senior walk advisor Dennis Banks.

Along the 3,600 mile journey, participants will work with communities to collect information on ways to heal our people and the Earth.

"We will host forums to see how communities are addressing one of

the most difficult issues facing people and the Earth today. We will gather information about solutions from community leaders,

law enforcement, clergy and drug program directors. College students will interview community members, students, parents, spiritual leaders, counselors and tribal officers in an attempt to get the bigger picture of the issues," said Banks.

Banks added they will travel any distance to discover these solutions, expressing native spirituality and reverence for all life as they journey across the U.S.

"Issues facing our people and the issues facing our Earth are connected. They both arise from the kind of thinking that does not value people or the Earth. Native American traditions oppose this sort of thinking. We say all life is sacred, and we speak as the conscience of our Earth."

Community awareness events and Choctaw cultural demonstrations are currently being finalized and interested Tribal members and the general public are encouraged to attend and support the Walk participants as they continue their trek to Washington, D.C.



Tribal Member Wins \$1,000

Tribal member Matthew York, right, was the recent winner of a nationwide giveaway by H&R Block. The Choctaw office of H&R Block, located at the Choctaw Town Center, announced York as the latest \$1,000 A Day Giveaway winner. York, along with Tribal members Alicia Vaughn, Leslie Tubby & Gabriel Bell, filed their taxes at H&R Block by Feb. 15 & were automatically entered into the sweepstakes. H&R Block gave away \$1,000 to 32,000 people for a total of \$32 million





CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XLVI, NO. 3

CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

APRIL 2016



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

www.choctaw.org

Tribe Mourns Passing of Councilman Ben

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians remembered the legacy of Choctaw Tribal Council member Harrison Ben, 81, during funeral services on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at the Standing Pine Community Gymnasium.

Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated the service and burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services of Philadelphia was in charge of arrangements.

Ben, a representative of the Standing Pine community, passed away on Saturday, April 9 at Abrazo Central Campus Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona.

Members of the Tribal Council observed a moment of silence during an April 12 meeting as they offered their appreciation and praise for the longtime public servant, respected elder of the community and mentor.

"It has been my honor to know and work with Mr. Ben for more than three decades," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson during the meeting. "In those years I have known him to be a wise leader, passionate in his beliefs, unafraid to speak his mind, a compassionate and loyal public servant to the Choctaw people, a mentor, a voice of reason and, most importantly, a dear and respected friend."

Ben was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. After 20 years of service, he retired



HARRISON BEN
1934 - 2016

as Master Staff Sergeant in August 1975 and returned home with his family to Standing Pine.

He received his Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Clarke Junior College in Newton in 1955. He then earned his Bachelor's Degree in business management with a minor in economics from the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla. in 1975 and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Mississippi State University in 1982.

From November 1975 through August 1976, he was an assistant superintendent at Chata Development. He was then employed as a juvenile officer for the Tribe. From 1980 until 1994, he served as director for the Tribe's Department of Family and Community Services.

In 1995, he was elected to the Tribal Council. During his tenure, he served as secretary/treasurer from July 1999 through July 2003 and served twice as vice-chief from 2005-2007 and 2009-2011. Throughout his terms, he chaired the Tribal Council's committees on Veteran's Affairs, Culture, Insurance & Investment, Children & Youth, and Natural Resources.

.....see BEN, pg. 3

CCHS Announces 2016 Top Scholars

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) announced the top scholars for the Class of 2016. Once again, the valedictorian was also named the STAR Student. The salutatorian is a young woman who is both a scholar and an athlete.

This year's Valedictorian and STAR Student honors go to Nicholas Raymark McMillian as Emilee Ann Thames was named Salutatorian.

"It is always exciting to witness the extraordinary accomplishments our Tribal students have made," said Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. "Nicholas and Emilee and their peers demonstrate the type of exceptional academic excellence that is a long-standing tradition in the Choctaw Tribal Schools."

Nicholas is the son of Lee and Sunni McMillian of the Pearl River Community. Nicholas had an active high school career as he served as president of the pow wow committee, secretary of both his senior class and the Beta Club, and a member of the High School Green Team, Solar Car Team, and the ACT 20+ Club. He is also an



Pictured from left are CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas R. McMillian & Salutatorian Emilee Ann Thames.

active member of the Chahta Alla Youth Council and was named Philadelphia Rotary Club's Student of the Month for November 2015.

Nicholas received many awards during his four years at Choctaw Central. This year alone

.....see CCHS HONORS, pg. 7

Fair Entertainment, Extras Announced

It's that time of year again for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to showcase their beautiful Choctaw cultural traditions during the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 13-16.

The fair will host chart-topping and award-winning country music artists Sawyer Brown, Sara Evans and Trace Adkins at the Pearl River Amphitheater main stage, in addition to fan favorite the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator Show

featuring Andy Riffle and Ian Tyson, as seen on Animal Planet's "Gator Boys," and the Living Traditions Dance Troupe with World Champion Hoop Dancer Derrick Davis.

The entertainment schedule features the 62nd Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant on Wednesday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Sawyer Brown will hit the stage on Thursday, July 14, followed by Sara Evans on Friday, July 15 and Trace

Adkins on Saturday, July 16. All concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.

The Scales, Tails & Teeth Gator Show is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday with three shows daily.

The Living Traditions Dance Troupe is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, with a special performance on Thursday, July 14 at 7:00 p.m. on the main stage.

Fair competition includes

.....see FAIR, pg. 3

SAWYER BROWN

SARA EVANS

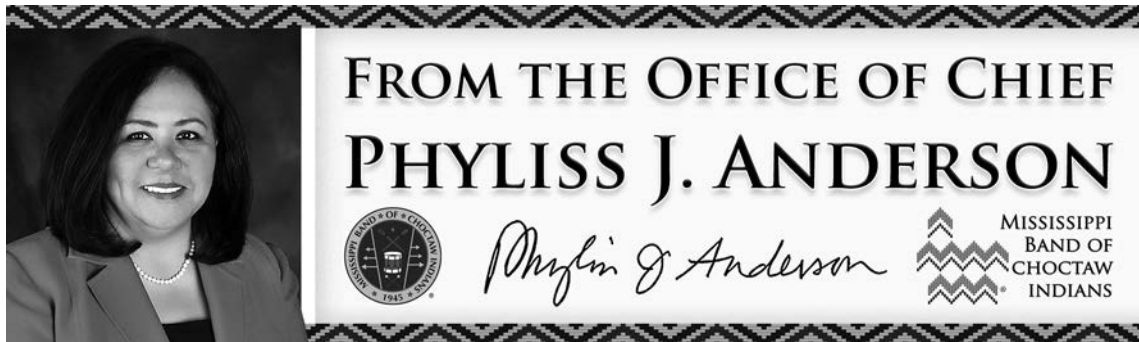
TRACE ADKINS

LIVING TRADITIONS DANCE TROUPE

67th ANNUAL CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR
July 13 - 16, 2016
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

IRON WARRIOR

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



Halito! Spring has sprung on the Choctaw Indian Reservation with beautiful flowers, warming temperatures and, of course, our annual Choctaw Tribal Schools spring festivals. With one more month to go before the end of the school year, students are eagerly awaiting summer break and seniors are excited about graduation and college. We have had many wonderful activities take place in the past few weeks, and we look forward to more in the coming months.

I'm pleased to share renovation projects that were included in our FY2016 budget are nearing completion. I feel confident that you will enjoy the much-needed improvements that are being made to our facilities.

We are continuing to finalize our plans for the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. We are excited to make some Fair announcements in this *Choctaw Community News* edition. I look forward to sharing more great news with you in the coming months.

PASSING OF COUNCILMAN HARRISON BEN

On Saturday, April 9, 2016, our Tribe mourned the loss of

respected Tribal elder Harrison Ben, Tribal Council representative of the Standing Pine community.

I have known Mr. Ben for many years, even before our service together on the Tribal Council. He was a great friend and a mentor to me, but what I most admired about him was his love and passion for his family and the people of his community.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who instilled in his family the virtues of hard work, dedication and establishing a firm foundation through education. Even before his six terms on the Council, he was already well-known for lending a helping hand to his fellow community members. His faith was what guided him in the decisions he made.

He leaves behind an outstanding legacy of public service that we should all seek to follow. I continue to pray for peace and comfort for his family.

CCHS ATHLETICS UPDATE

Choctaw Central High School baseball and fast-pitch softball has concluded for the year, and I congratulate our

players and coaches for a successful season and urge them to keep up the good work. Both are young teams that will return year after year and build upon the skills they have learned.

Our golf teams recently competed in the regional tournament. Lady Warrior golfer Breanna Layne Isaac placed second in the tournament, as well as Trent Hundley who placed second in his tournament. Both advanced to the state championships, which began May 2.

Our track and field team has had a successful run and recently competed in the regional tournament. The athletes' superior performance advanced them to state championships in Pearl, MS on Saturday, May 7.

In powerlifting, Cobi John placed sixth in his weight division at the state championships on Saturday, April 16.

The Choctaw Central Unified team and other individual winners competed in the Special Olympics and 2016 Spring State Games Championship on April 2 and brought home several wins! Traditional 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament received the Silver Medal (team members: Raven McMillan, DeMarco Thomas, Quentin Comby, Mia Alex and Richard John, Jr.) and Individual Team Skills competitors brought home several pieces of hardware: Shawn Wishork - Gold Medal, Bryce Martin - Silver Medal, and Taylum Wishork - Bronze Medal. Again congratulations to all our student athletes and coaches.

TRIBAL STUDENTS AT SCIENCE FAIR

Our students did a great job at the Region V Lower Science and Engineering Fair at Mississippi State University

Pictured from left are CCHS athletes Breanna Isaac, Trent Hundley & Cobi John.



on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

We had several participants place in the top ten and top five, and we could not be more proud of them! I encourage all of our young scholars to keep on learning and discovering the wonders of the world around them.

NAYO TOURNAMENT

We were proud to host the 2016 NAYO basketball tournament on March 23-26, 2016. There was a record turnout of 75 teams, and we actually had to start the tournament a day early. As always, our Tribe was well-represented with several local community teams, and a good time was had by all participants.

I thank the hard-working staff at Tribal Recreation for their efforts in making this a successful tournament. We hope to see everyone come back for the softball and baseball tournaments in the fall.

CCHS GRADUATION

It's hard to believe that another school year is about to end and that we celebrate graduation with the Class of 2016. This year's CCHS graduation ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Valedictorian and STAR student is Nicholas McMillian, and salutatorian is Emilee Thames. I am proud of our seniors and am excited to participate in this ceremony to share this wonderful milestone with them. I hope you will all join us and show your support to our graduates.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOL SPRING FESTIVALS

We are so proud of all our students, teachers, parents, school faculty and staff for

their preparation and performance at this year's spring festivals. I know there is a lot of time and skill put into the making of dresses, shirts, beadwork and other clothing items.

Our children have worked hard to learn the steps of our dances and it is a joy to share these experiences with them.

Events like spring festival instill a strong sense of cultural pride and life-long memories they share with their peers.

It is our unique Choctaw traditions that we celebrate and pass along to the next generation. I cannot think of a more beautiful display of our culture than seeing our young showcase their talents. Congratulations and great job!

RESORT PERFORMANCE AND REFINANCE PACKAGE

Our resort continues to improve performance as we continuously examine management practices and resort operations.

The gaming industry is very fast paced and changes happen every day. We have to adapt with the times to keep our customers and bring in new ones. That's why last year we made the renovations and upgrades at the Resort and it continues to pay off.

Here are just a few numbers to prove our success.

- In the first 4 months of FY2016, we are earning \$2.1 Million above our projected budget.

- Our cash on hand continues to grow as we put aside money for our future. In just 5 years we have grown our cash reserves by \$45 Million!

- And the reactivation of the Golden Moon continues to show success with revenues up by \$12 Million since opening.

.....continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

• Our Choctaw workforce at the Resort is strong with 48% of all Resort Associates enrolled MBCI tribal members.

And most recently, we have secured and gained approval by the Choctaw Tribal Council for a refinance package that consolidates all our outstanding debt at a rate of approximately 2%! This results in a tremendous savings of interest expenses.

This is good money management and proven confidence by investors in our leadership.

CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

On April 12, a regular call Tribal Council was held to consider 26 items on the agenda based on draft resolutions considered and forwarded to the full Council during the Pre-Council meeting held on April 8. However, at the April 12 meeting, a majority of the Council voted to include on the agenda two additional items: one, amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policies and Procedures (the “HR Policy”), and, two, amendments to the Tribal Council Expense Policy (the “Expense Policy”).

I objected to the inclusion of these two additional items based on the following legal and procedural grounds, and I expressed my hope for the Council to delay a vote on these two additional items until these concerns were adequately addressed through further discussion and cooperation since the two items were not necessary to address any emergency situation.

First, there are certain amendments to the HR Policy that unlawfully transfer management authority and responsibility over certain Executive Branch employees from the Tribal Chief to the Tribal Council, and this is not permitted under our Constitution and Bylaws.

While I respect the constitutional authority of the Tribal Council to establish procedures for the conduct of all tribal government and business operations, the exercise of that authority must not infringe on the express and inherent au-

thority of the Tribal Chief, as the principal executive officer of the Tribe, to manage, direct, and administer the operations of the tribal programs and services.

Second, my objection to the Expense Policy is based on the fact the proposal was never approved by the proper committee to be submitted to the full Council.

The Tribal Council should abide by its own committee systems rules and procedure, as well as historical practice, to require that (non-emergency) proposed enactments be considered and approved by the appropriate committee of the Council before being submitted to the Tribal Council.

Despite my objections, a majority of the Tribal Council voted to approve the HR Policy and the Expense Policy.

I am disappointed in the members of the Tribal Council that supported these two resolutions. As elected officials, we all took an oath to uphold and protect the Constitution and to abide by the laws of our Tribe. That’s what I have done and will continue to do in order to protect the future of our Tribe.

Since 1975, our reservation has grown and prospered as the result of a stable Tribal government built on the strong foundation of a Tribal Chief who is elected by the people of all Tribal communities to serve as the principal executive officer and head of the Executive Branch of the Tribal government. I am also concerned the inability of the Tribal Council to work cooperatively with the Tribal Chief sends a message of instability to reservation customers, outside investors and the many tribal members both on and off the reservation who depend on us.

I am not giving up. I am thoroughly reviewing these new policies that were adopted, and I am looking at how to move forward and serve the best interests of our Tribe while faithfully and honestly executing the duties of my office, which include protecting our Tribal Constitution.

CHOCTAW INDIAN FAIR UPDATE

I am excited to announce the nightly entertainment schedule for the Choctaw Indian Fair. As usual, the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant will be held on the opening night, Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. Nightly entertainment Thursday through Saturday nights will begin at 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, July 14th, we welcome Sawyer Brown to the stage, followed by Sara Evans on Friday, July 15th and Trace Adkins on Saturday, July 16th.

We are also excited to bring back crowd favorites such as the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator Show, Living Traditions Dance Troupe and competitions such as Iron Warrior and REZRUN.

As our tagline says, there’s something for everyone at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

CLOSING

I hope that you are spending time with family during these spring sports games and community gatherings. These events are opportunities for you to have fun and make memories, and it is vital in this fast-paced world to slow things down and have an enjoyable time with loved ones. I appreciate your hard work and commitment to a better future for our Tribe. I remain dedicated to my pledge of building a high quality of life for our people. Thank you for your support and your prayers.

Many Blessings,

Phylliss J. Anderson
Phylliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

FAIR continued from page one

Gospel Night on Tuesday, July 12. The winning act will perform prior to either the Sawyer Brown or Sara Evans concert.

The Iron Warrior competition (men’s & women’s division) will be held Thursday, July 14-Saturday, July 16. Registration is open at www.choctawindianfair.com/competitions.

The 5th Annual REZ RUN will be held on Saturday, July 16 beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Warrior Stadium. Registration is open at www.racesonline.com

Choctaw Social Dancing and cultural displays will also be showcased at the stage nightly before musical performances. Immediately following the show, World Series Stickball games will be played at Warrior Stadium with the World Series Stickball Championship Game capping off the last night of the fair on Saturday, July 16 at 10:15 p.m.

To learn more about the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, visit www.choctawindianfair.com, like us on Facebook at Choctaw Indian Fair or call the fair hotline at 601-650-7450.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TRIBAL ELECTION

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians will hold a Special Tribal Election on Tuesday, June 07, 2016, for one (1) seat on the Tribal Council for the remainder of the four-year term (2015-2019). The MBCI Tribal Election Committee includes the following members: 1) Berdie John, Chairperson; 2) Amy Pauls, Member; 3) Wanda Davidson, Member; 4) Gary Williamson, Alternate; 5) Shirley Wilson, Alternate; and 6) Danita Darlene Willis, Alternate.

To be elected to the Tribal Council:
One seat in Standing Pine, with term expiring in 2019.

The Tribal Election Committee will appoint a Local Community Election Committee (LCEC) to conduct this election. Tribal members who are registered to vote will cast their ballots at the polling place operated by the Local Community Election Committee. Voters must bring a form of identification.

Times and places listed below:			
COMMUNITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Standing Pine	Tuesday, June 07, 2016	8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	Facility Building/Gym

REGISTRATION
Tribal members 18 years of age or older who do not yet registered to vote may register at the Tribal Election Office. See Mavis H. Hickman. If you do not register to vote on or before 5:00 p.m., May 6, 2016, you cannot vote in the June 07, 2016, election. If you have already registered to vote, you do not need to register again unless you have moved to another community since the day of your registration.

ABSENTEE BALLOT
Any qualified registered voter who is age 57 or above, or who is physically unable to appear at the poll on election date, or who resides 50 miles or more distance from the community in which he or she is registered to vote shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot. Request for absentee ballots shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee at the Tribal Election Office no later than 12:00 noon on May 23, 2016. Requests for absentee ballots received after this date and time will not be honored. Walk-in absentee ballot requests shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Tribal Election Committee no later than 12:00 noon on the day before the election date. Document of proof supporting the walk-in absentee ballot request is mandatory. Mailed and walk-in requests for absentee ballots can be only for the person making the request; the request cannot be made on behalf of others.

INFORMATION
For further information, please contact the Tribal Election Committee at one of the following numbers: (601) 650-7475, or (601) 650-7468 or FAX (601) 389-2252. You may also contact the Committee by writing to:
Office of Tribal Election
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6052 or 131 Annex Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350

The chairperson of the Local Election Committee, who is officially appointed to conduct an election in your community, may also be contacted.
Berdie John Berdie John, Chairperson *Amy Pauls* Amy Pauls, Member *Wanda Davidson* Wanda Davidson, Member

BEN continued from page one

He and his wife, Mary Jane (Wickson) Ben, were married for 57 years until her death in 2010. They had six children. He enjoyed being with his family, attending high school basketball games at Choctaw Central and Neshoba Central, farming, raising cattle, fishing, and playing baseball with his sons.

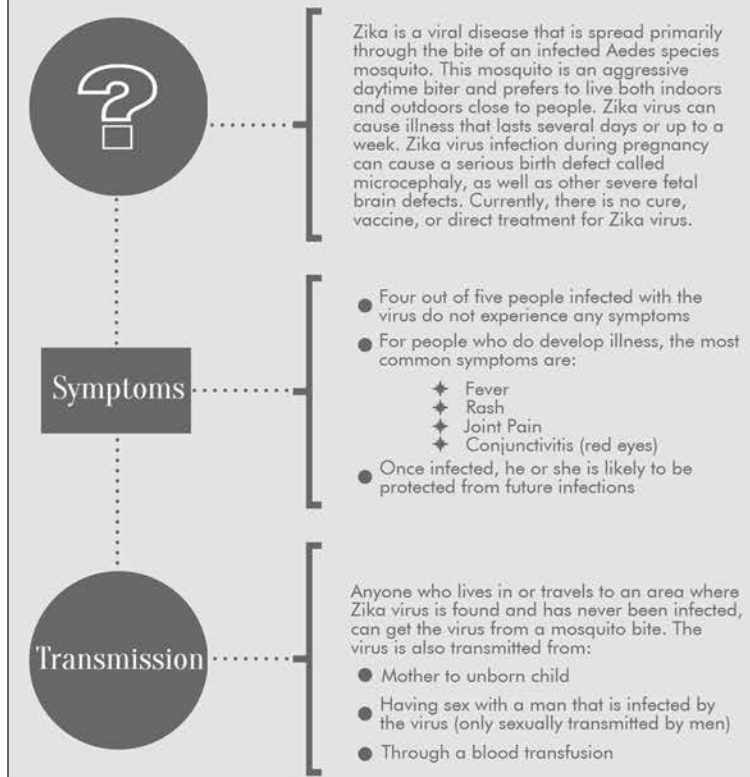
He is preceded in death by his parents, Olen and Neva Ben; wife, Mary J. Ben; and sisters, Nannie Mae Ortiz, Annie Laura Alex and Mattie Lou Ben.

He is survived by his daughters, Gwen Ben of Austin, TX, Karen (and Todd) Adams of Madison & Marion (and Richard) Sockey of Standing Pine; sons, Timothy (and Donna) Ben of Philadelphia, Gary (and Helen) Ben of Standing Pine & Greg (and Dianna) Ben of Choctaw; a sister, Josephine Schoonover of McAlister, OK; nine grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

What is Zika Virus?



Zika Virus and Pregnant Women



A main health concern of Zika virus is the potential problems that can affect an unborn child. If a woman becomes infected with Zika virus prior to or during pregnancy, she can pass the virus to her unborn child. The virus can cause serious brain damage, such as underdeveloped brain and skull (microcephaly), defects of the eyes, hearing problems and impaired growth.

How to Protect You and Your Family



Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents as directed by manufacturer's guidelines and wear long sleeve shirts and pants.

SAFE SEX

Use condoms to prevent the transmission of the virus



Stay indoors and use air conditioners, screen doors, and screen windows to keep mosquitoes out



Be Alert

Currently, there are 41 out of 50 states that have laboratory confirmed Zika virus cases. Take caution when in areas that have confirmed cases of Zika virus.



Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites



To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, empty containers that hold standing water such as flower pots, pet dishes, buckets, toys, bird baths and discarded tires.

For more information please contact the Mississippi Department of Health at (800) 553- 0003 or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/about/index.html>.

Released on
April 26, 2016



Kidney Talk

Submitted by Dr. Otis Gowdy, Jr.
(Nephrologist, Internal
Medicine Clinic, Meridian, &
CHC Primary Care Clinic)



Kidney disease is often referred to as the “silent” disease. Early kidney disease has no symptoms. You can’t feel that you have it, so it’s important to know if you are at risk so you can get tested.

The two main causes of kidney disease in Mississippi are Hypertension (high blood pressure) and Diabetes (sugar). Kidney disease also runs in families.

The Risk Factors

- Do you have diabetes?
- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Do you have a family history of kidney disease?
- Do you have heart disease?
- Do you have a relative (mother, father, sister, or brother) who has diabetes or high blood pressure?
- Are you Native American, African American, Hispanic, or Asian?

If you have any of these risk

and urine tests are the only way to know. Talk to your doctor if you notice swelling in your legs, hands or feet as that could mean you may be having problems with your kidneys.

Kidney disease can be treated if caught in the early stages. Don’t wait for symptoms if you are at risk... GET TESTED!

Ways to Prevent or Slow the Progression of Kidney Disease

- Have regular checkups with your doctor.
- Take medicines as prescribed.
- Keep your blood pressure at a healthy level of less than 120/80.
- Control your blood sugar.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Exercise regularly.
- Maintain your ideal weight.
- Limit your daily salt in-

factors, I encourage you to talk with your doctor about being tested for kidney disease. Blood

take.

- Do not smoke.
- Talk to a dietitian or ask your doctor about a “kidney friendly” diet.

With early detection and treatment, the progression of kidney disease can be delayed or even prevented. GET TESTED!

SDPI hosts Spring Into Fitness event

The Special Diabetes Prevention Initiatives (SDPI) sponsored the annual Diabetes Awareness Spring Into Fitness 2 Mile Walk/Run on Saturday, April 2.

Participants started and finished at the Geyser Falls Water Theme Park parking lot and walked/ran the two-mile course on Blackjack Road in the Pearl River community.

The annual event promotes diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as

.....continued next page



“Talk Early, Talk Often: Parents Can Make a Difference in Teen Alcohol Use”

Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

With this year’s theme, “Talk Early, Talk Often: Parents Can Make a Difference in Teen Alcohol Use,” the month of April will be filled with local, state, and national events aimed at educating people about the treatment and prevention of alcoholism, particularly among our youth, and the important role that parents can play in giving adolescents and children a better understanding of the impact that alcohol can have on their lives.

Alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous—both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors, even for those who may never develop a dependence or addiction. Adolescence is a time of heightened risk-taking and as alcohol and drugs are involved, parents are faced with a unique set of challenges. They can simply sit back and hope their kids will “get through it,” or they can take an active role in learning about alcohol and drugs and helping their kids do the same.

It can be daunting to talk with children about drinking and drug use, but it is well worth the effort parents put into it. In fact, research has shown that kids who have conversations with their parents and learn a lot about the dangers of alcohol and drug use are 50% less likely to use these substances than those who don’t have such conversations, (NCADD, 2016).

For More Information, call Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601/389-4150



participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management and hopefully overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Overall winners were (male) Alonzo Henry with his time of 13:04 and (female) Allison Meely with her time of 16:45.

First and second place finishers in each age category are listed & pictured above.

(Ages 7-Under) Male - 1st, Koi Denson; 2nd, Shad Thompson; Female - 1st, Iyley

Denson; 2nd, Lailah Henry.

(Ages 8-10) Male - 1st, Kaden Bell; 2nd, Rocky Steve; Female - 1st, Briley Willis; 2nd, Jaden Wesley.

(Ages 11-14) Male - 1st, Logan Comby; 2nd, Jareth Isaac; Female - 1st, Taysia Kewis; 2nd, Sherale Lewis.

(Ages 15-18) Male - 1st, Alex Bell; Female - 1st, Autumn Lewis.

(Ages 19-24) Male - 1st, Ralando Bowden; 2nd, Josh Farmer; Female - 1st, Deshayna Hickman; 2nd, Deandrea Williams.

(Ages 25-34) Male - 1st, Beasley Willis, Jr.; 2nd, Jermika John; Female - 1st, Lacey Sharp; 2nd, Cheriena Ben.

(Ages 35-44) Male - 1st,

Rian Willis; 2nd, Jay Wesley; Female - 1st, Renita Willis; 2nd, Valerie Sam.

(Ages 45-54) Male - 1st, Gaylon Williams; 2nd, Tony York, Jr.; Female - 1st, Deborah Henry; 2nd, Peggy Williams.

(Ages 55-Above) Male - 1st, Aldolph Vivians; 2nd, Dan Mittan; Female - 1st, Carleen Gilmore; 2nd, Cheryl Denson.

SDPI was established in 2004 to serve adult Tribal members who are at-risk of developing diabetes. The program objective is to recruit patients and test them for a condition called Pre-Diabetes in an effort to prevent the onset of diabetes.

They provide 16 weeks of

intensive activities for patients with Pre-Diabetes and upon completion, the staff provides a monthly follow-up with the

patient. After-care classes are provided for patients to attend each month.

Dental Program Offering Mouth Guards

The Choctaw Health Center Dental Department in Choctaw announces the following dates and locations (listed below) for Tribal member athletes to receive custom-made mouth guards.

Bogue Chitto Dental

Thursdays (April 28, June 2 & June 30) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

CHC Dental

Fridays (May 27, June 10 & July 1) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Conehatta Dental

Thursdays (May 26, June 9 & June 28) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Red Water Dental

Wednesdays (May 25 & June 29) beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Anyone registering on these days should arrive at 8:00 a.m. and no later. We will not accept late sign-ins as custom-made mouth guards are done and delivered in a timely manner.

Remember, accidents happen during practice, sometimes more often than during a game. Mouth guards should be worn at all times during any contact sport. This is important to prevent serious injuries to the mouth, chipped or fractured



teeth, and/or nerve damage, and tooth loss.

The CHC Dental Department would like to remind athletes the following information regarding mouth guards.

Why a custom mouth guard? The fit and thickness protects your teeth better than boil and bite.

Do not share your mouth guard! It is made for you and you only. It will not fit anyone else.

Wear your mouth guard for practice and games. You need to wear your mouth guard for practice to get used to breathing and talking with it in your mouth.

Keep it clean. Rinse your mouth guard after each use, just like your toothbrush.

Do not lose your mouth guard! Keep your mouth guard with your stickball sticks. Use one, use the other.



RELAXATION & MINDFULNESS GROUP

PURPOSE:
Learn & practice mindfulness & relaxation for increased awareness & well-being for individuals experiencing stress, depression, anxiety, & mood disorder.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Confidential, Informal & Welcoming Environment.

WHY ATTEND:
Learn new coping & relaxation skills.

WHEN:
2nd Wednesday of the Month (4:45-5:30 p.m.)
First session begins May 11.

WHERE:
CHC Behavioral Health, 2nd Floor.

***If you wish to join the group or have questions, please call Jody Dorman at Choctaw Behavioral Health at (601) 389-4150 for more information. An intake is required for all participants.**



Looking for Health Insurance that Fits Your Health Needs and Your Budget?

Medicaid or CHIP May Be the Answer! You Can Enroll Any Time - But Why Wait?

Connecting Kids to Coverage: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) offer low-cost or free health insurance for you and your family. In many states, more adults than ever before may qualify for Medicaid.

Who may be eligible?

- Children and teens up to age 19
- Parents (and other adults, depending on the state)
- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Youth "aging out" of foster care

Eligibility depends on income, the size of your family and the rules in your state.

When you enroll, you can get:

- Doctor visits
- Preventive care, such as immunizations, mammograms & colonoscopy
- Prenatal and maternity care
- Hospital stays
- Mental health care
- Needed medications
- Children get vision and dental care (adults may get these benefits too)

American Indians and Alaska Natives who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP:

- Can still get care from your Indian care provider.
- Don't have to pay premiums or co-payments.
- Indian trust income is not counted to determine eligibility and is protected from Medicaid estate recovery rules.

You benefit by having greater access to health care services.

Tribes benefit because their health programs get more resources.

To find out if you qualify, visit www.KidsPlus.com or call **Outreach Services Program** 1-601-389-4114 Durnene Farmer, 1-601-389-4124 Robert Ben, or 1-601-389-4280 Laura Dees (Managed Care) for help applying.



Resort Promotes Key Marketing Leader

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, has announced the promotion of Matthew Perkins to Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing.

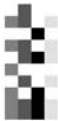
He has 16 years of experience and a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the gaming industry. Since joining Pearl River Resort as Vice President of Marketing in 2013, Perkins has seamlessly led all aspects of advertising, public relations, database marketing, promotions, entertainment, creative services and sales efforts

for all properties in the CRDE portfolio, including Silver Star Hotel & Casino, Golden Moon Hotel & Casino, Bok Homa Casino, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park. “We are excited to have Matthew transition into the role of Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing,” stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President and CEO for Pearl River Resort. “During his tenure, he has made significant contributions in rebranding the Resort and reaching thousands of new guests in various markets. He has the type of credentials, high level of expertise, and strong leadership skills that will help ensure continued growth for Pearl River Resort.” Prior to joining Pearl River Resort, Perkins has held vari-

ous senior leadership positions with Caesar’s Entertainment in Mississippi and Louisiana, including New Orleans, Vicksburg, Shreveport/Bossier, Tunica, and Biloxi. He previously served as Vice President of Marketing at Grand Biloxi Hotel & Casino, where he was responsible for all facets of marketing including Casino Marketing, Database Marketing, Advertising, Promotions and Events, and Sales. Under his leadership, revenue was significantly increased by the design, implementation and adjustment of the overall marketing strategy and property positioning. Perkins also served as Regional Vice President of Database Marketing at Harrah’s, where he led the marketing team in implementing marketing strategies that increased revenue and profitability for the company in both the Tunica and Gulf Coast regions. Previous leadership roles held include Director of Database Marketing, Database Marketing Manager, and Database

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email PRGP@pearlriverresort.com or visit www.pearlriverprinting.com.

We are still conveniently located in the old First American building at
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We look forward to doing business with you!



Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee

Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) is proud to announce the Raise the Roof Project for current CHA Homebuyers. The CHA Board of Commissioners has approved to service eligible CHA Homebuyers that are in need of roof replacement. At this time, services for roof replacements are only extended to Housing Project 1100 (HOME) and 2700 (NAHASDA). Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.

Raise the Roof Project Eligibility

- **Emergency housing tenants will move to the top of the list.**
- **Selection for the roofing project will be on a first come / first serve basis according to the date applied.**
- **All recipients' payments must be current on their account (rent and/or work order).**
- **Must be 80% or below median family income.**
(2016 United States Median Family Income Limits listed below).

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
80 %	\$ 36,792	\$ 42,048	\$ 47,304	\$ 52,560	\$ 56,765	\$ 60,970	\$ 65,174	\$ 69,379

REQUIREMENTS:

- No funds will go directly to tenant.
- Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.
- Recertification must be conducted with current income to meet qualification.
- Inspection of dwelling must meet approval of the Executive Director and Development Manager before assistance can be provided.
- Cost will be added to the original price of home or
- Payment Agreement Plan (approved by Collection Manager and Executive Director).
- 1100 (HOME) & 2700 (NAHASDA) Housing Projects only for 2016 Year.
- Tenant or 18 years old or older must be home during replacement of roof.

**Applications can be obtained & submitted to
Brenda Stephens, Project Coordinator, Choctaw Housing Authority,
at 601-656-6617 or email brendas@choctawha.com**

PAB Honors Thompson

Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) members & guests met on April 12 at the Ayipa Café. They enjoyed a delicious working lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts students & staff at the Occupational Training Center in Choctaw.



Roseanna Thompson, left, was named Outstanding Choctaw Educator for April as she receives her award from PAB Co-Chair Crystal Roach.

Marketing Analyst.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Perkins' gaming career began with Harrah's/Caesar's Entertainment, Inc. as General Manager Associate.

Perkins holds a bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management from the University of Southern Mississippi. He was also the recipient of the Harrah's Entertainment Chairman's Award, the highest hon-

or that can be achieved by its employees.

In his new role of Executive Vice President of Operations and Marketing for Pearl River Resort, Perkins will continue to lead all aspects of Marketing and will take on additional responsibilities in leading resort operations, including overseeing the day-to-day activities of all non-gaming aspects of the Resort.

Crystal Roach, PAB Co-Chair, recognized Roseanna Thompson as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for the month of April. Thompson is a strong advocate of her Choctaw culture & language.

She attended Conehatta Elementary School and is a graduate of Choctaw Central High School, Mississippi State University and Penn State University where she obtained a Masters degree in Educational Administration in 1984.

During her 30-year tenure with the Tribe, she served as a teacher, elementary principal, Director of Language Ini-

tiatives, Supreme Court judge, Director of Tribal Language Program, Professional Development Director, Director of Education, and Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration Coordinator for the Department of Schools (DOS).

She is responsible for the creation of Choctaw Language classes & the first Choctaw Immersion Pilot Program for Head Start through grants she administered. Thompson strives to remain humble in all she does.

“I have ideas & visions, but I credit the Tribal Language staff & the DOS staff I have working with me in being able to help the Tribe accomplish these projects. I owe them much gratitude. My vision is to one day hear the sweet sound of the Choctaw language being spoken fluently by all Choctaw children,” said Thompson.

Roseanna is the wife of Billy Thompson.

Students Participate in Special Olympics

Twenty students from Choctaw Central Middle and High School represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi on Saturday, April 2.

The games were held at the Mississippi Basketball and Athletics Center in Jackson as students participated in individual basketball skills, 3-on-

3 traditional team and 5-on-5 unified competitions.

Special Olympics Unified Sports is a fast-growing initiative that brings people with and without intellectual disabilities together on the same team to compete. The 2015-16 school year is the first year that the Unified approach to Special Olympics was introduced at Choctaw Tribal Schools.

Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at CCHS. Amanda Reed, CCHS physical education teacher, was responsible for preparing students for the event.

All students showed great compassion and sportsmanship while participating in the day's events. Their demeanor was a glowing example of the true spirit of a Choctaw Central Warrior and Lady Warrior. We are all proud of their accomplishments and congratulate them on a successful season.

For more information, contact District Special Education Coordinator Sherry Tubby at 601-663-7643.



ABOVE, CCHS had 10 student athletes on the CCHS Unified basketball team. They went undefeated & won the 5-on-5 unified gold medal. Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York.

RIGHT, The following CCHS students receiving medals in Target Pass, Spot Shot & 10-Meter Dribble skills included: Shawn Wishork, gold; Bryce Martin, silver; & Taylum Wishork, bronze.



Choctaw Central students Danta Cotton, left, & Nick Williams carried the Olympic Torch as part of the Opening Ceremonies.



CCMS students competed in the 3-on-3 traditional basketball tournament & were awarded silver medals for their efforts. Team members included Mia Alex, Quentin Comby, Richard John, Jr., Raven McMillan, & DeMarco Thomas.



RWES Students Enjoy Field Day
Red Water Elementary School students who met their reading goal participated in the March Madness Field Day. Way to go students!



CCHS HONORS continued from page one

he earned awards in AP English IV, Spanish II and Forensics. Academics and clubs aside, Nicholas was a four-year member of the CCHS boys soccer team. The team made it to post-season play for the first time in school history this year.

This fall, Nicholas will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. In recognition of his academic achievements, Nicholas has received a General Dartmouth Scholarship and the ACT Tuition/Room Board Scholarship.

Nicholas also serves as this year's STAR Student and named student favorite Jamie Franklin as STAR Teacher. This is Franklin's second consecutive year being named STAR Teacher.

Emilee, the daughter of Anthony and Sha-

ron Thames of the Pearl River Community, is a member of the Beta and ACT 20+ Clubs. She was also named Student of the Month for September by the Philadelphia Rotary Club. Emilee received the Calculus, U.S. Government and Spanish I Awards during her senior year at CCHS.

This fall, Emilee will stay close to home and attend the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as high school principal," said CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon. "As shown through the accomplishments of these young people, college and career readiness is being achieved at high levels by our students."

SPES Jr. Betas Attend Convention

The Standing Pine Elementary School Jr. Beta Club attended the State Jr. Beta Convention in Biloxi on March 20-22. Several Beta Club members took part in competitions & placed in their respective categories. Nataysia Willis placed 3rd (Color Photography), Jaeden Wesley placed 2nd (Handmade Jewelry) & 1st (Watercolor Painting) & Connor Billy placed 1st (Recyclable Art). Other club members in attendance were Chloe Wesley, Tayen Jim, Taition Stokes, TaSheena John, DeShaylee Tubby, Aiden Alex, Cameron Reed, Fichik Wilis, Jabari Green, Anya Anderson, & Bishop Reed. Beta sponsors are Dawn Harrell & Amie Pike.



Hoop, CAPPS & Growing the Tribe's Legacy

*By Jim McAdory, MSU
Extension Service Agent for
MBCI*

A few years ago, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) did a story titled "Agriculture Renaissance for the Choctaw Tribe." The story discussed the rebirth of agriculture within the Choctaw Tribe and how it has become a valid part of the tribe's economic portfolio and an educational tool for young people. Two years later, this is still true.

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) recently implemented a hoop house, or high tunnel, to enhance student's educational experience. When students learn material in Botany, Earth Science, Biology, etc., they can actually

see, touch, smell, and even taste what they're learning about and apply it to real life situations.

The tunnel got its start from a grant from MDAC, but partnerships quickly formed for the students' benefit. Partners, which include the Tribal Natural Resources, Recycling, Court Services Green Re-Entry, Occupational Training Center, and Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension, spent many hours getting the outdoor classroom ready for instruction. Classes are being conducted now in the newest educational addition, and surely for many years to come.

The hoop house is currently utilized to grow tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, and onions. Students have watched these plants

start as seeds and nurtured them to the blooming stage as they learned firsthand what it takes to grow their own food. They've also learned about insects, both good and bad, and how to treat plants when they get sick.

Agriculture and nature is recognized as the root of Tribal culture through culturally recognized foods, items made from trees and animals, as well as given birth to the oldest sport in America, Choctaw Stickball.

Natural resource management and agriculture continue to grow at CCHS with these students and future tribal professionals. Training agriculture professionals outside the classroom has become priority as CCHS partnered once again with MSU Extension to create a positive youth development program to introduce prospective college students to agriculture and natural resource career options and educational paths to these careers.

The new program, Choctaw Agriculture Professional Program for Students (CAPPS), was implemented in 2016 to introduce students to ag-

riculture professionals face to face with opportunities for students to see firsthand what these professionals do.

To date, students have been introduced to careers with not only the Extension Service, but U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mississippi Department of Agriculture.

CAPPS students recently toured the MSU campus and met with several current students and administration members. A component of CAPPS

is to write essays about agriculture professionals they have met and give oral presentations about what they've learned in this new program. All students presented and represented CCHS well.

My (MSU) Bulldog hat is off to the efforts taken by CCHS to educate these students. What's going on for these Choctaw youth will ensure the Tribe continues to write the long agriculture and natural resource management story in Mississippi history and leave an even greater legacy than what has already been established.



Pictured above is the hoop house, or high tunnel, located on the campus of CCHS where students are growing tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, herbs, lettuce, & onions. Pictured right is Jim McAdory, MSU Extension Service Agent for MBCI, as he explains to students the importance of agriculture in today's economy & education.



CAPPS members & advisors pose in front of a tractor (above) & in from the high tunnel on the CCHS campus (below).



CAPPS members & chaperones visited the MSU campus in Starkville.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) presented exciting cultural activities during the month of March!

Our first workshop, round comb decoration, was held in Bogue Chitto on March 7 at

the facility building. Participants were delighted to receive their combs & decorate it. CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex & May McGeisey provided instructions

Several tribal members from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma attended a workshop on weaving river cane baskets at the Pearl River dance ground March 14-17.

CAP provided the best weavers available - Louise Wallace, Eleanor Chickaway, Sophia Anderson, Tonya Stoli-by, Susanna Shoemake, Rosie Joe, Catiea Anderson (sub for Nina Anderson), Norma Hall, & Theresa Shoemake - to teach them the craft. They gave individualized & step-by-step instructions to the participants.

After four days, participants learned to weave various types of baskets, trays, pencil holders, cones, egg baskets, & wall decor.

Amanda Malloy of the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) & Jennifer Jamieson of the Mississippi Arts Commission interviewed participants & instructors for a future publication of the event.

The CAP staff received great responses from the Choctaw Nation participants as they requested a repeat of the classes.

On March 15, several students from Ole Miss conducted a project at the activity area at the CAP office. They conducted interviews for a future magazine article on Choctaw Expressions.

Activities highlighted included traditional cooking led by Phyllis McMillan, bead work by Trudy Jimmie, stickball by Casey Bigpond, Choctaw clothing by Dora Nickey, rabbit sticks by Stacey Billy, & baskets by Anita Anderson.

The CAP hosted beading & making stickball towa workshops for Boys & Girls Club members in Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, & Tucker during the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Spring Break March 21-24.

The workshops were funded through the 2016 Choctaw Community Fund. Participants had the option to learn how to bead daisy chain necklaces, bracelets & one-strand necklaces or how to make a stickball towa.

Beading instructors were Shayna McMillan, May McGeisey & Trudy Jimmie. Casey Bigpond & Jamieson Williams were instructors for the stickball towa making session.

The CAP staff appreciates the Choctaw Community Fund and contributors for making cultural activities possible as it enables the staff to reach out to Choctaw youth & offer them worthwhile projects. The children & staff said they absolutely enjoyed the workshops.

On March 26, Casey Bigpond, along with Garland Bell, Jr., conducted a drum making workshop in Red Water. The workshop was made possible through a donation from the MBCI.

All CAP workshops are for tribal members & their descendants. The staff encourages and welcomes every Tribal member to attend cultural training classes to help continue Choctaw culture.



Several Bogue Chitto community members participated in the round comb decorating activity on March 7.



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma members displaying their beautiful baskets include, front row from left, Kanda Jackson, Joshua Jacob, Jennavie Tom, Jared Tom, Brad Joe, Debbie Damson; back row, Regina Green, Kay Jackson & Shelly Garner.



From left, Tucker participants wear their completed beaded daisy chain necklace... Red Water participant Kerri Wilson holds the stickball towa she completed... Conehatta participant Tazzen

Thomas shows off his key ring with beaded daisy chain... Bogue Chitto participant Cordero Bobo looks on as his sister, Onyx, finishes her first one-strand necklace & starts on another one.



**CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

**CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER**
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION
GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT \$3
MILITARY DISCOUNT \$3
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2
SENIORS (67 AND ABOVE) FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE



NEWS & NOTES

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**

CONEHATTA UNIT

Members of the Conehatta Unit participated in field trips & events during February & March.

On Feb. 18, staff members from the Family & Community Services' Family Violence & Victim's Services did a presentation on "Healthy Relationships" for teens.

On Feb. 26, Officer Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Police Department informed teens about the "We Tip" program.

On Feb. 26, teen members

watched the Choctaw Central Lady Warriors basketball team at Choctaw Central High School.

On March 3, members (ages 6-7) watched "Shrek the Musical" at the Ellis Theater in Philadelphia. Members (8-10) were in attendance for the March 4 showing.

On March 5, members (6-7) went to the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson to celebrate Dr. Suess' birthday.

On March 16, the Mobile Resource Center

came to the club for the member's enjoyment & homework assistance.

On March 17, all members enjoyed an ice cream social to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

On March 18, members of TORCH & Keystone went to Laredo Grill Mexican Restaurant & Canal Place Theaters for an evening with their peers. They watched "Miracles from Heaven."

On March 22, members (6-7) went to the Jackson Zoo.

On March 23, members (8-

10) went to Party Safari in Flowood.

On March 24, the MBCI Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) facilitated a daisy chain making workshop & a stickball towa making workshop for the members. The demonstration was a part of the annual Warrior & Princess Survival Week during Spring Break.

On March 28, members enjoyed a day outside as they celebrated Easter. They had an Easter

egg hunt, egg race, putt-putt golf, volleyball, & kickball. Members also enjoyed eggs, popcorn, cupcakes, & kool-aid for snacks.

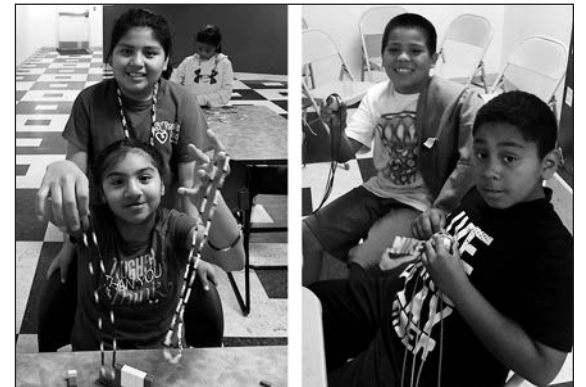
Upcoming Events

On May 17, the club will close at 5:30 p.m. due to Choctaw Central High School Graduation.

.....continued next page



Congratulations Emily! We will miss you as we appreciate the time you shared with us.



LEFT, Remini & Hailey with their beaded necklaces for Princess Survival Week. RIGHT, Tyrein & Jaeon learned how to make a stickball towa during Warrior Survival Week.



Conehatta Teen Center members went to Canal Place Theaters to watch a movie. Prior to the movie, they had dinner at the Laredo Grill Mexican Restaurant.



Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Police Department informed members about the We Tip program.



The 6-7 year-old members took a train ride at the Jackson Zoo during Spring Break.



The 6-7 year old members celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday at the Children's Museum in Jackson.



The 6-7 year-old members (left) & 8-10 year olds (right) enjoyed watching "Shrek the Musical."



The 8-10 year-old members enjoyed their visit to Party Safari in Flowood during Spring Break week.



Easter activities included coloring Easter eggs, left, and an egg race.



May 19 is the last day for Choctaw Tribal Schools & will be a 60 percent day. Club hours will be from 12:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

From May 20-27, club hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Youth of the Month

Braycee Hall, 11 year-old daughter of Justin Hall of Conehatta, was named February Youth of the Month. Braycee, a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary, has been a member of the Conehatta Unit since May 2014. She is a member of the Teen Center & TORCH Club & likes to volunteer while demonstrating excellent behavior at the club.

Honor Roll

The following members named to the 2nd nine-weeks honor roll include Keondrae Anderson, Kethan Anderson, Kirklain Bell, Greer Billy, Dexton Hall, Windell Hall, Jr., Jarrien John, Jaeson Johnson, Sebastian Johnson, Tali King, Jordan Langley, Braylon McMillan, Braylon Smith, Haven Dixon, Justina Hall, Cambee Johnson, Hailey Johnson, Kadence Johnson, Taijah Kessinger, Tiarri Kessinger, Kayleona Kessinger, Remini Nickey, Taelyn Nickey,

Aaliyah Tahawah, ReAnnan Thomas, Zyanna Thomas, Taily Wesley, Janina Williams, Dylan Stephens, Tayden Wesley, Sabien Williams, Sebante Williams, Chasen Williamson, DeRyan Williamson, Malice Williams, Kylie Williamson, & Ashlynn Stephens.

Congratulations from the staff & members! These members will receive a matinee ticket from Canal Place Cinemas for their efforts.

Special Thanks

The club members & staff say "thank you" to Phyllis McMillan & the CAP staff, Officer Kelby Anderson & Tashia Two-Hawks. We really appreciate the time & knowledge each provided for our members & staff.

The CAP staff came to our club & demonstrated how to make necklaces, keychains, bracelets, & stickballs. Thank you for teaching our members how to make beautiful necklaces & stickballs.

Officer Anderson came to our club after his National Guard duty requirement. Thank you for making the effort to inform our members about your program. They enjoyed the handouts too!

Tashia, a former club employee, volunteered a couple

of her spring break days to chaperone field trips. The kids enjoyed seeing her again. Thanks!

The club staff & members congratulate newly inducted members of the Conehatta School Beta Club. They include Taelyn Nickey, Malice Williams, Braylon Smith, Greer Billy, Haven Dixon, Haygen Anderson, Zarius Johnson, J.T. Willis, Jaeson Johnson, Dresen Jimmie, Dylan Stephens, & Aaliyah Tahawah.

PEARL RIVER UNIT

On Feb. 12, the Pearl River Unit held a pre-Valentine's Day party. The staff served cupcakes, popcorn, kool-aide, & distributed goodie bags to members.

Members attending Neshoba & Choctaw Tribal Schools went to Lovern's Arena in Arlington during their respective Spring Breaks on March 7 & 21. Members had fun riding the mechanical bull, ponies, chasing chickens & little pigs, & riding the trolley.

On March 18, the unit held Easter activities & contests. Contest winners included:

Jamal Isaac & Mauhree Jones (Pin the Tail on the Bunny);

CHOCTAW VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM & EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DEADLINE - May 30, 2016 for the "FALL" Term

COURSE OF STUDIES:

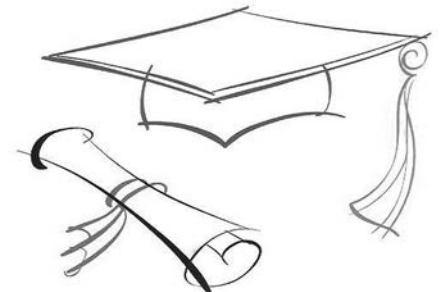
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SOME TRAINING COMPONENTS MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE ONCE A YEAR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COURSE LISTINGS

Contact The Vocational Education Program Angeline King or Bernadine Dixon @ 601-650-1745 or 601-650-1749

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS are available at the Choctaw Manpower Training Center Vocational Education Department. All documentation is required before the deadline date. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS will not be accepted.



"STRIVING FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE"

Jacob Isaac & Kaisley Hernandez (Pin the Tail on the Bunny);

Jacob Isaac & Delaiah Billy (Guess What's in the Egg);

Johann Espinosa & Hunter Farve (Guess How Many Jelly Beans in the Jar).

On March 23, Tribal School members went to High Heaven in Flowood. Members enjoyed high flying during the trampoline jumps & playing dodgeball.

On April 15, members wore purple in support of military-connected youth.

Unit members ages 6-7 attended the Party For the Planet celebration on April 23. Members had fun in the bounce houses, face painting, dancing, animal encounters, & learning healthy habits.

On May 13, the Boys & Girls Club staffs will be attending a staff training conference in Louisiana.



Pearl River Unit members received a cupcake during a pre-Valentines Day party.



Easter contest winners included, from left, Jamal Isaac, Mauhree Jones, Kaisley Hernandez, Jacob Isaac (Pin the Tail on the Bunny), Jacob Isaac, Delaiah Billy (Guess What's in the Egg), & Johann Espinosa (Guess How Many Jelly Beans in the Jar). Not pictured is Hunter Farve.



The Pearl River Unit staff had an Easter Egg decorating contest on March 17. Satchell Willis was the winner. Congratulations & thank you to the staff members for their participation.



Members had a good time at Lovern's Arena during Spring Break.



Members enjoyed the trampolines at High Heaven in Flowood during Spring Break.

2016 NAYO BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT WINNERS



12-14 Junior Girls Champion - Rainmakers

Team members include Tia'Rain Saunders, Maiya Joe, Rayven McMillan, Hallie Billie, Jaida Bell, Christy Amos, Melanian Jimmie, Jashuntaye Isaac, LaCaniya Anderson, Leia Phillips, Meloney Thames, & Layana Morris. Coaches were Trish Phillips & Randi Williams.



Junior Girls Runner-Up - Native Elite

Team members include Charli Frye, Tiana Stubbs, December Stubbs, Madelyn Osceola, Amarys Huggins, Alena Stockton, Analyse Jimenez, Talia Rodriguez, & Alexis Foreman. Coaches were Ashlie Wilcox & Danielle Frye.



Junior Girls 3rd Place - Nation 1

Team members include Jillian Lasiloo, Larena McMillan, Bridgette Farve, Ciji Vaughn, Breanna Mingo, Daysia Henry, Reneesha Farve, & Ahlyric Ben. Coaches were Jaleesa Vaughn & Jennifer Lasiloo.



12-14 Junior Boys Champion - Crazy Nation

Team members include Darius Lambert, Isaiah Armachain, Blake Smith, Tino Pete, Josiah Lossiah, Sterling Santa Maria, Tihjah Lossiah, Bobby Crowe, & Isiah Evans. Coaches were Spencer Moore & Duck Lossiah.



Junior Boys Runner-Up - Hawks

Team members include Myrick Anderson, Kearson Grisham, Chaney John, Octavious Jones, Kaleb Solomon, O'Rieon Bell, Joshua Isaac, Eason John, & Parrion Hunter. Coach was Ricky Anderson, Sr.



Junior Boys 3rd Place - Hurricanes

Team members include Zane Lilly, Bryceton Jimmie, Jacobi York, Baron Parkerson, Bryce Parkerson, Gage Wesley, William Williams, Dantzler Clemmons, Miles Steve, Samuel Bell, Jr., & Dayne Parkerson. Coach was Anzulum Parkerson.



15-17 Senior Girls Champion - #TeamTenacity

Team members include Candace Jefferson, Tia Amos, Sarah Allen, Mercedes Jefferson, Lattoriah Johnson, Melody Jimmie, Tiara Joe, Dalmerika King, & Aleshia Tisho. Coaches were Keith Riggen & Tiffani Riggen.



Senior Girls Runner-Up - Lady Ballerz

Team members include Taylor Ben, Larena McMillan, Christina Willis, Darien Tubby, Sydni Tangle, Kelsey Tangle, Emilee Thames, Kyree Ben, Janeon Alex, & Kaedre Denson. Coaches were Terry Ben & Benson Lewis.



Senior Girls 3rd Place - Native Hoops

Team members include Shae Pierce, Burgiendy Pierce, Skyla Osceola, Sydnee Osceola, Sage Osceola, Audrey Whitegrass, & Lahna Baker. Coaches were Drew Bowers & Claudia Gore.



15-17 Senior Boys Champion - Angry Ducks

Team members include Chayton York, Terrell Ben, Tayshaun Mingo, Justus Day, Quentin Nanaeto, & Brias Bell. Coaches were Clifton "Yogi" Willis & Christopher "Poncho" Willis.



Senior Boys Runner-Up - Seneca Chiefs

Team members include Chase Scanlan, Trevon Thompson, Jermahi Benton, Ayden Jimerson, Huron Snow, Elliot Bowen, Justin Hemphill, Efrain Barreto, Gates Abrams, & Eagle Eye Stevens. Coach was Scott Snyder.



Senior Boys 3rd Place - Braves

Team members include Jason McMillan, Kennan Panther, Steven Straughan, Holden Straughan, Logan Teetsateskie, Shannon Albert, Cory Junaluska, Dodge Crowe-Moss, Jeffery Girty, Jr., Karson Wildcat, & Trace Lambert. Coaches were David Jumper & Duke McCoy.

Partnership to Strengthen ICWA Implementation, Compliance

(ST. PAUL, Minn.) - In keeping with President Obama's commitment to supporting Indian families and fostering resilient, thriving tribal communities through his all-of-government approach, acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced on April 4 that the Departments of Interior (DOI), Justice (DOJ), and Health and Human Services (HHS) have entered into a collaborative agreement to ensure more robust compliance with and implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 (Public Law 95-608).

The agreement, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), brings three federal agencies together in partnership to strengthen federal oversight of the Act. The MOU's effective date is April 1, 2016.

"This MOU marshals the appropriate focus and resources of Interior, Justice and HHS to ensure that Congress's intent in protecting Indian children and families is carried out," said Roberts. "We want to assure Indian families and tribal leaders that the Obama

Administration's dedication to ICWA's goals remains an enduring policy for Indian Country.

"Focused implementation and compliance of ICWA protects Indian children and families, strengthens the social fabric of tribal communities, and ensures that tribes are able to serve their citizens for generations to come."

Roberts made the announcement while speaking at the National Indian Child Welfare Association's 34th Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect taking place April 3-6 in St. Paul.

According to NICWA's website, its annual conference is the largest national gathering dedicated to Native American tribal child welfare advocacy.

Congress enacted ICWA based on hearings which confirmed that an alarmingly high percentage of Indian families had been broken up when public and private agencies subjected Indian children to unwarranted removal, most of who were eventually placed in non-Indian homes.

Congress recognized this

was a tragedy not only for American Indian and Alaska Native families and their children, but for tribes, as well, because they suffered from losing generations of their future members and leaders.

ICWA set forth a federal framework for maintaining American Indian and Alaska Native children with their families, including extended families, and deferring to tribal courts on matters concerning the custody of tribal children. Through ICWA, Congress also sought to carry out the United States' trust responsibility for protecting Indian children and for the stability and security of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and families.

To further ICWA's purpose and the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the U.S. and federally recognized Indian tribes, and to promote improved outcomes for Indian children in foster care and child welfare proceedings, the federal partners will collaborate on matters related to implementing the letter and spirit of ICWA.

The purposes of the MOU are:

- To memorialize the part-

ners' commitment to the continued importance of ICWA and its implementation for the health and well-being of Indian children, families, and communities;

- To formally establish the ICWA Interagency Workgroup to promote the purposes of ICWA and the partners' mutual interests in ensuring ICWA implementation and compliance;

- To promote communication and collaborative efforts on federal activities that support ICWA implementation and compliance; and

- To establish structures and procedures to ensure that the Workgroup operates effectively and efficiently.

The principal co-chairs of the ICWA Interagency Workgroup are the DOI Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, the HHS Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families; and the DOJ Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division. Each agency will designate a senior staff member to serve as a staff co-chair of the Workgroup.

The Workgroup will meet

monthly at a staff level, with principal-level meetings at least twice a year, and will identify priorities, goals and tasks, as well as establish committees to carry out its work. It also will seek input from and conduct outreach to federally recognized tribes and other stakeholders via existing federal tribal advisory groups, stakeholder groups, tribal consultations, listening sessions, and public meetings.

The acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices - Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, and Field Operations.

These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

SAVE THE DATE!

6TH ANNUAL

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE



PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SILVER STAR CONFERENCE ROOM
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [HTTP://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS](http://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS).
 E-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1, 2016.
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR, CONTACT
 CHIEF JUSTICE KEVIN BRISCOE OR YOUTH COURT JUDGE HOLLY PETERS
 AT 601-650-1658.

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 (1-855-484-3739)
 or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

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- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD, up to \$1,000!**

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It! Report It! Stop It!



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
 Family Violence and Victim's Services
 at 601-650-1774



IN MEMORIAM

PAUL DELANO ANDERSON

Funeral service for Paul Delano Anderson, 42, was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Max Anderson & Rev. Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the St. Catherine Catholic Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Anderson passed away on March 18 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed spending time with his family & friends, being a Choctaw drummer & making stickball sticks.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, a brother, & grandparents.

Survivors include his daughters, Delanea Anderson & Alanea Anderson; sons, Foy

Anderson & Joey Anderson; wife, Janice Anderson; a sister, Olivia Denson; a grandson; an uncle, six nieces, & a host of relatives & friends.

PAUL D. ISAAC

Funeral service for Paul D. Isaac, 63, was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, from the St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Family Cemetery. Wilcox Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Isaac passed away on March 19 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army & Reserves. He was a counselor at USET, an electrician at Ingalls Ship Building & a member of electrical maintenance at Silver Star Casino. He was an avid runner & enjoyed spending time with his family, watching sports & reading.

He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, an infant daughter, two brothers, & two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Regina John Isaac; three sons, Richard Isaac, Christopher Isaac & Dwight Isaac; two brothers, Preston Isaac and Malcolm Isaac; six grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

VONNIE EARL SAM

Funeral service for Vonnice Earl Sam, 78, was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sam passed away on March 24 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

He was a former sharecropper & enjoyed fishing, singing Choctaw hymns, playing the guitar, watching television, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, three daughters, a brother, sister, half-sister, four grandchildren, & a special cousin.

Survivors include a daughter, Ida M. Sam; a son, Everette Sam; half-sister, Bessie Wilson; two nieces; three nephews; 11 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; & a host of relatives & friends.

STANLEY JOHNSON, SR.

Funeral service for Stanley Johnson, Sr., 71, was held on Monday, March 28, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Pastor Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Johnson passed away on March 24 at his residence.

He was a member of Hope Indian Baptist Church. He enjoyed listening to Elvis Presley music, working in his yard & attending the Choctaw El-

derly Activity Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister & a brother.

Survivors include his daughters, Joanne Marie Johnson & Suzy Johnson Lane; a son, Stanley Johnson, Jr.; two sisters, Marjorie John & Loreda Johnson; a brother, Clarence Johnson; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

PENNINGTON JOHNSON, SR.

Funeral service for Pennington Johnson, Sr., 63, was held on Friday, April 1, 2016, from the Conehatta Facility Building. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Johnson passed away on March 27 at the Attala County Nursing Home in Kosciusko.

He was a member of the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church. He was a carpenter, plumber & mechanic & was employed with the Tribal Maintenance Program. He enjoyed listening to music, woodworking & watching western shows on TV.

He was preceded in death by his mother, sister & grandparents.

Survivors include his daughter, Jannifer Willis; step-daughter, Lisa Gibson Vaughn; sons, Kennington Johnson, Pennington Johnson, Jr. & Lamo Johnson; a sister, Roseanna Thompson; 18 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; & a host of family & friends.

JIMMY WAYNE BILLIE

Funeral service for Jimmy Wayne Billie, 51, was held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, from the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Philadelphia. Cator W. Escho & William B. Nickerson officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Billie passed away on

March 30 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed doing beadwork, watching TV, traveling, listening to music, helping out people, studying his Bible & attending meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses.

He was preceded in death by his parents & a son.

Survivors include his wife, Patty Lynn Billie; daughter, Tara Willis; step-daughters, Nolita Chickaway, Verdisa Chickaway & Lakitia Chickaway; step-sons, Damein Ross Chickaway, Alan Chickaway, Jr., Mario Chickaway, & Dameon Wayne Chickaway; sisters, Patsy Martin, Manzie Billy & Glenda Billy; brothers, Wilson Billy, Jr. & Harold Amos; 13 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

EMMA ROBINSON

Funeral service for Emma Robinson, 66, was held on Monday, April 4, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Robinson Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Robinson passed away on April 1 at Rush Hospital in Meridian.

She was a member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. She enjoyed doing beadwork & sewing traditional Choctaw dresses & shirts.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister & two brothers.

Survivors include a host of relatives & friends.

RITA JOHN DENSON

Funeral service for Rita John Denson, 79, was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Samuel Dixon & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the New Canaan Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Denson passed away on

.....continued next page

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farwe

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

Welcome To

**NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church**

Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
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Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-5446
Pastor Thomas Ben

April 1 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She enjoyed fishing, singing Choctaw hymns, playing the piano, & being with family & friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, an infant son, three sisters, five brothers, & a special cousin.

Survivors include a daughter, Gaydon Denson; sons, Theron Denson, Don Denson, Gerald Denson, Carl Phillips Rick Denson & Brandon Denson; sisters, Delores Bell, Jennie Jackson, Loriane Jackson, & Ida Mae John; three grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARY ETTA WILLIS

Funeral service for Mary Etta Willis, 82, was held on Monday, April 11, 2016, from the Macedonia Indian Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on April 8 at her daughter's residence in Conehatta.

She enjoyed fishing, working on word puzzles, listening to the radio, and spending time with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three sons, a sister, brother, and a nephew.

Survivors include her daughter, Barbara Nell Willis; a brother, Hubert Jefferson; 9 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

FRANK DIXON, JR.

Funeral service for Frank Dixon, Jr., 45, was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon John Smith & Rev. Leonard Jimmie, Jr. officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John

E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dixon passed away on April 9 in Choctaw.

He was a graduate of East Central Community College & attended Mississippi State University. He was the first tribal member to be awarded the Riley Scholarship & was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He was employed with the Pearl River Resort.

He enjoyed golfing, fishing, playing stickball, & spending time with his family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents & a brother.

Survivors include his wife, Cynthia Dixon; children, Quinten Dixon, Taylor Dixon, Chelsey Bell, & Brandi Bell; & a host of relatives & friends.

DELMON ISAAC

Funeral service for Delmon Isaac, 50, was held on Friday, April 15, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Isaac passed away on April 10 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed fishing, telling jokes, playing basketball, playing the guitar, & spending time with family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his father, daughter, grandparents, stepfather, step-sister, a great-grandmother, three aunts, & three uncles.

Survivors include his son, Morgan Dale Jefferson; mother, Suzanne Stoliby; three sisters, Martisha Barrack, Amanda Isaac & Vanessa Isaac; a step-sister, Amanda Frazier; four brothers, Randall Isaac, Sr., Thurman Isaac, Darren Isaac, & Darris Isaac; step-brothers, Gerald Stoliby & Harold Stoliby; seven grandchildren; four aunts; four uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

HARRISON BEN

Funeral service for Harrison Ben, 81, was held on Saturday, April 16, 2016, from the

Standing Pine Community Gymnasium. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ben passed away on April 9 at the Abrazo Central Campus Hospital in Phoenix, AZ.

He was a member of the Choctaw Tribal Council as a representative for the Standing Pine Community. He served as secretary/treasurer and vice-chief twice during his terms.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force & achieved the rank of Master Staff Sergeant. He honorably retired in 1975 after 20 years of service.

He earned degrees from Clark Junior College, University of Tampa & Mississippi State University.

He served as director for the Department of Family & Community Services from 1980-1994.

He enjoyed attending Choctaw Central High School and Neshoba Central High School basketball games. In his younger days, he enjoyed fishing with his family, playing baseball on the same team as his sons, farming & raising cattle, & being with his family.

He is preceded in death by his wife & three sisters.

Survivors include his daughters, Gwen Ben, Karen & Todd Adams and Marion & Richard Sockey; sons, Timothy & Donna Ben, Gary & Helen Ben and Greg & Dianna Ben; 9 grandchildren; a sister, Josephine Schoonover; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

STELLA VIRGINIA ALLEN BILLIE

Funeral service for Stella Virginia Allen Billie, 81, was held on Sunday, April 17, 2016, from the Tucker Community Gymnasium. Deacon Williamson Isaac, Rev. John E. Stephens & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Billie passed away on April 14 at Anderson Hospital in Meridian.

She was a Baptist by faith and a member of Corinth Baptist Church. She was friendly & always had a smile on her face.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband & three brothers.

Survivors include her son, Terry Billie; sisters, Geneva Farmer & Nelda Lewis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY RAY McMILLAN, SR.

Funeral service for Jimmy Ray McMillan, Sr., 56, was held on Monday, April 25, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McMillan passed away on April 20 at his residence.

He was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He received a certificate in tractor-trailer training & was a logger. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being in a drum group, & being a guitarist in a band.

He is preceded in death by his mother, grandparents, five uncles, & two sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Janie McMillan; daughters, Felicia Sanchez, Shayna McMillan, Cherish McMillan Shoemake, Christi McMillan Becerra, Seriah Cumberland, Gabriela Cumberland, & Raziya Cumberland; sons, Jimmy Ray McMillan, Jr., B.J. McMillan, Ashley L. Billy, Daniel R. McMillan, Randall Morris, Jr., & Roberto Fonseca; sisters, Mary Elizabeth McMillan & Alice Marie McMillan; a step-sister, Barbarella Isom Johnson; a brother, Thaddeus James Tubby; a step-brother, Gerald Isom; 17 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.



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A GREAT PLACE
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food sales, or bake sales
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Applications & guidelines can be picked up at the Office of Economic Development, or if you have any questions call DeeSandra Ben at 601-650-1612.

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**Multi-Vehicle Discounts
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Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)**

HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only



Happy belated birthday to my wife, Janet Mynell Willis, on March 10. I love you! From John E. Willis.

Happy Birthday to Michael B. Jackson, Sr., on April 2. We love you & miss you a lot! Love

from Momma Laurene, Bruce & Eric Jackson, nieces, nephews, & a very special friend.

Melvin Zane Lewis is turned 3 years old on April 3. Happy Birthday "Baby." We all love you! From your family.

Happy, Happy 11th Birthday to Gavin Massey on May 28. Have a wonderful birthday! Love, Mommy, Blake & Baley.



Lanisha Bell

Bell Selected To Ambassadors Program

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) member Lanisha G. Bell was recently selected as a member of the 2016-2017 Class of the Ambassadors Program.

Bell, Victim Assistance National Coordinator for the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Office of Justice Services, was

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

APRIL 2016

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selected out of more than 150 national and international applicants. Her selection was based on her ability and qualities as an emerging leader in her community.

Bell's expertise in family violence and victim's services reflects her passion for protecting Indigenous cultures.

She will represent the MBCI community and all of Indian Country as the Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) meets with leading Indigenous activists and government officials.

Weaving an international Indigenous network, AIO catalyzes and facilitates culturally ap-

propriate initiatives and opportunities that enrich the cultural, political and economic lives of Indigenous peoples.

AIO Ambassadors are at the forefront of implementing innovative initiatives to improve the well-being and growth of their communities.

Weaving Healthy Families Project

Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people (about healthy families, overcoming trauma and violence, lowering family conflict and improving the well-being of community members)!!

Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards

- What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 and above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45
- OR, if you prefer, you can contact Catherine at: cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the information for you)



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.

21st Annual Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow

Marksville, LA – May 21 & 22, 2016
Earl J. Barbry, Sr. Convention Center • Mari Showroom
Paragon Casino Resort • Marksville, LA

2016 Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow Head Staff			
Head Lady Crystal Williams Elton, LA	Head Dance Judge Randy Frazier Oklahoma City, OK	Northern Host Drum White Bull Singers Wind River Reservation, WY	Co-Emcee Tim Tall Chief Jones, OK
Head Man Dancer Gabe Bullock Livingston, TX	Head Drum Judge Bert Polchies Wallo, ME	Southern Host Drum Southern Red Singers Santo Domingo Pueblo, NM	Co-Emcee Alexander Santos Apache, OK
Arena Director Leland Thompson Elton, LA	Head Gourd Dancer Tony Conrad Zachary, LA		

DANCE COMPETITION

Cash Prizes

3 Places in 13 categories
Including Chicken Dance and Northern & Southern categories in Men & Women's Golden Age

*Contest registration is 8AM-12PM on Saturday in the Mari Showroom Lobby.
Contest points start at 1:00PM Grand Entry on Saturday.

General Admission - \$5; Children (5 yrs. & younger) - \$3
Registered Drum (singers) and Dancers (in regalia) with numbered credentials - Free

For lodging or general information,
call 800-946-1946 or visit tunicapowwow.org.
Vendors must apply in advance.
Contact Sharon at 318-253-1923
or email avosar@paragoncasinoresort.com.

DRUM COMPETITION

Cash Prizes

2 Places in Northern & Southern categories

Contest specials to be announced

Sponsored by
The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana,
Paragon Casino Resort
and Pepsi Americas

Weaver's Report

*By Laura Christel Horlings,
Choctaw Bible Translation
Committee Program Coordinator*

On Saturday, March 12, a group assembled in the Pearl River Community Baptist Church kitchen. They cooked breakfast and by 9:00 a.m. were introduced to Weavers, a community of practice.

The group included De-Laura Saunders, Pam Smith, Becky Richarte, Chris & Millie Chickaway, Darlene Willis, Edna Cotton, Gerald Denson, Roseanna & Billy Thompson, Alex & infant, Laura Christel Horlings, Abby Farmer, and Ed & Elenore Beach.

This particular day was led by Ed & Elenore as Ed reflected on how honored he felt to hear their stories the day before & responded by sharing their life. They showed pictures & told about the places & people alongside whom God had led them in Guatemala.

Ed & Elenore led us through stories of people telling stories by means of role playing. Sometimes they stopped in the middle of role playing to explain what they were doing.

They let people play roles, such as one pretending to be an unbeliever & the other sharing their life with a new friend.

Ed & Elenore wove in a couple of God's stories as we didn't have time for practicing telling God's stories.

The weekend was a special

time for me. It was refreshing to meditate on God's story & God speaking to us. It got me thinking about how much I enjoy sharing God's story & how we got to talk to each other.

I really miss having time for that. What a wonderful weekend this was, hearing what we've been doing & getting caught up. A community practicing weaving these stories seems to be a beautiful thing.

One Choctaw Bible Translation Committee member said, "We sincerely enjoyed having the opportunity to listen to the Weavers! I enjoyed it because I love to tell stories and this gives me an opportunity to practice what I love doing, telling stories and also spreading the gospel! Thanks to the Weavers!"



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◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CCHS Hosts 2016 Graduation Ceremony

Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) hosted their commencement ceremony for the Class of 2016 on Tuesday, May 17 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Hundreds were in attendance as 75 seniors received their diplomas as they suc-

cessfully completed their high school education requirements and embark on a path of collegiate studies, military service or joining the work force.

CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon served as emcee of the ceremony. Seniors Kassie Cox and Samuel Wallace offered

the invocation, followed by a special presentation of the Class of 2016 video yearbook.

Remarks were given by Director of Schools David Germany, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and Tribal Council Pearl River representative and Education Committee Chair Lola Parkerson.

Top scholars for the Class of 2016 included Valedictorian Nicholas Raymark McMillian (son of Lee and Sunni McMillian of the Pearl River Community) and Salutatorian Emilee Ann Thames (daughter of Anthony and Sharon

Thames of the Pearl River Community.)

McMillian, also the recipient of the STAR Student award, will be attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Thames will be attending the University of Alabama - Birmingham.

Hickmon presented the graduating class as CCHS

see GRADUATION, pg. 6



Offering remarks to the graduates included, from left, Director of Schools David Germany, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson and Tribal Council Pearl River representative and Education Committee Chair Lola Parkerson.



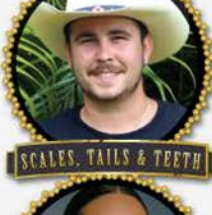
LEFT, Pictured (top) is 2016 CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian & (bottom) Salutatorian Emilee Thames. RIGHT, Members of the CCHS Class of 2016 toss their caps in the air.

USET Opening Fire Ceremony

Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan, left, looks over the opening ceremony fire as Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians representative Rae Nell Vaughn mixes ashes & coals from the last USET meeting in Choctaw. Vaughn, Chief of Staff for MBCI Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, passed the USET fire to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. In October, at the USET 2015 Annual Meeting held at Choctaw, Miss., the fire was passed from the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Over 300 Tribal Nations were at Poarch Band of Creek Indians near Atmore, Ala., for the 2016 USET Semi-Annual Meeting May 16-18.



67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair

	Wednesday, July 13 11:00am Gates Open 5:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater 6:00pm Opening Ceremonies with Chief Phyliss J. Anderson 7:00pm Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant 10:15pm World Series Stickball
	Thursday, July 14 11:00am Gates Open 6:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater 7:00pm Got Gospel Singing Challenge Winner in Concert 8:30pm Sawyer Brown in Concert 10:15pm World Series Stickball
	Friday, July 15 10:00am Gates Open 6:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater 7:00pm Living Traditions Dance Troupe 8:30pm Sara Evans in Concert 10:15pm World Series Stickball
	Saturday, July 16 7:00am REZ RUN 2016 10:00am Gates Open 5:00pm Choctaw Social Dancing at Amphitheater 6:00pm Closing Ceremonies with Chief Phyliss J. Anderson 8:30pm Trace Adkins in Concert 10:15pm World Series Stickball Championship

Special Appearances
Thursday - Saturday: Scales, Tails & Teeth Gator Show
Living Traditions Dance Troupe

See Iron Warriors in Competition Thursday-Saturday!

TICKETS:
Adult Season: \$20 Adult Day: \$12
Student Season: \$10 Student Day: \$7
Ages 5 and Under: Free

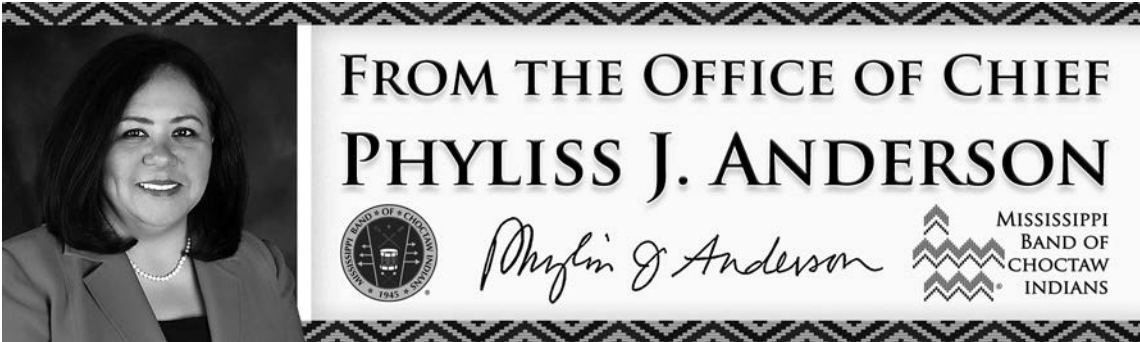
Pre-fair tickets sale at Pearl River Resort Welcome Center, Monday, June 20 to Sunday, July 10, 2016.

For More Information: 601.650.7450
www.ChoctawIndianFair.com
This is a family, non-alcoholic event.

For More Information on REZ RUN:
601.650.1765
www.racesonline.com



Halito!

As I write this letter, we have reached the end of another school year and the beginning of summer. I know our children are excited to have a break and gear up to play stickball and enjoy a number of activities such as State Games of Mississippi and the Choctaw Indian Fair.

As Choctaws, we have a unique story to share of our heritage, traditions and identity. Whether it's through our traditional Choctaw social dancing, food, artistry or recreation, it is our unique life-

ways that are on display and celebrated during this time of year.

Many of our artisans are beading, basket weaving and stitching now in preparation for fair. Our stickball teams and dance groups are practicing and the fair committee planning is well underway. It's going to be a great summer!

at the Amphitheater to select teams and place in the stickball schedule. This is done by random drawing in front of a public audience to ensure fairness in the tournament.

The event was overseen by Stickball Commissioner Thomas Ben and assisted by the 2015-2016 Choctaw Indian Princess Emily LeAnn Shoemake.

This year we have 32 teams playing in the World Series Stickball (WSS) Tournament. WSS officially kicks off on July 5th with the adult league games – Men's 35 & Over at 7 PM, Men's at 8 PM, and Women's at 9 PM.

You can view the 2016 WSS brackets and schedule of play on www.choctawindianfair.com or on the Choctaw Indian Fair social media sites: Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Present for the school bus presentation were, from left, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Transportation Director Benson Lewis, Chief Phylliss J. Anderson, Division of Education Director Willa Brantley, & Director of Schools David Germany. Pictured below are several of the buses at the CCHS parking lot.

WORLD SERIES
STICKBALL BRACKET
DAY

On June 6th, the Choctaw Indian Fair Stickball Committee hosted Bracket Day



Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake was on hand at the Pearl River Amphitheater on June 6 to announce brackets for the upcoming World Series Stickball at the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair July 13-16. There will be 50 teams total competing in three adult divisions and two youth divisions. Games will begin July 5 and conclude on July 16 with the men's championship game. All games will be played at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis.....Communications Manager

Kathie Henry.....Communications Writer

Taryn Carey.....Communications Writer

Darron Tubby.....Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Present for the school bus presentation were, from left, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Transportation Director Benson Lewis, Chief Phylliss J. Anderson, Division of Education Director Willa Brantley, & Director of Schools David Germany. Pictured below are several of the buses at the CCHS parking lot.



nity on June 7th, to fill the seat of the late Councilman Harrison Ben.

Election results from the community are posted below in this edition of *Choctaw Community News*.

I congratulate newly elected Councilman Richard Sockey and I look forward to working with him on continued progress for our Tribe.

.....continued next page

*****OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS*****					
Standing Pine Community					
Tribal Council Special Election					
June 7, 2016					
509 REGISTERED VOTERS					
Tribal Council Candidates	Ballot Casted & Counted	Absentee Ballot	Reject Accepted	Challenge Accepted	Official Results
Chickaway, Christopher	0	0	0	0	0
Denson, Beasley	70	5	0	0	75
Farve, Benjamin	75	0	0	0	75
Isaac, Jr., Brant	11	0	0	0	11
Sockey, Richard *(Elected)	185	21	0	0	206
Williams, Dinah	8	0	0	0	8
Total	349	26	0	0	375
Berdie John Berdie John, TEC-Chairperson Amy Pauls Amy Pauls, TEC-Member Wanda Davidson Wanda Davidson, TEC-Member					
POSTED: June 8, 2016					

NEW BUSES FOR CHOCTAW TRIBAL SCHOOLS

On Monday, May 23, 2016, I was so proud to hand over the keys to ten brand-new full-sized school buses to Benson Lewis, Director of Transportation for Choctaw Tribal Schools. In addition, ten smaller buses are set to arrive in the next few months.

These new buses will greatly expand the Choctaw Tribal Schools' fleet. The cost for the buses totals \$1.5 million. We used available Tribal revenues in the purchase of these buses.

My administration is dedicated to building the resources for our Tribal school system and investing in our children.

STOCKING OF COMMUNITY PONDS

Just in time for the long Memorial Day weekend, we

were happy to work with MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries personnel in the stocking of five community ponds: Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine and Tucker. The ponds are brimming with bass, bream and an addition of 300 pounds of catfish.

I know many families went out to enjoy the ponds and I enjoyed seeing your pictures on Facebook. It brings great pleasure to know our tribal members are getting out with their kids to enjoy our community ponds and spend quality time together. Those are memories in the making to cherish for a lifetime. Small things matter most!

MBCI WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

We have so many hard-working and capable staff members throughout our tribal govern-

ment programs. I want to highlight the capable and dedicated staff of the MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries program under the direction of Mitzi Reed.

In addition to caring for our ponds, piers and habitats, they host numerous educational events and activities for our youth such as the annual Wildlife Jamboree and Choctaw Challenge at Lake Pushmataha and most recently a boat-safety class at the Lake. Many thanks to MBCI Wildlife and Fisheries for a great job!

MEMORIAL DAY

We recently celebrated Memorial Day, and I hope everyone enjoyed the long holiday weekend with their families and loved ones. But I also hope everyone took some special time to remember the reason we observe Memorial Day and that is to honor and pay tribute to the many brave men and women who have fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for our freedoms.

It is really quite sobering to realize the true cost of liberty when you consider the number

of lives lost in American Wars. In total more than 1.1 million soldiers have lost their lives and in the current war on terrorism there have been 6,852 casualties.

Let's always remember our soldiers and their families in our thoughts and prayers and thank members of our military for the service they provide to us.

MBCI SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

After a review of our existing supplemental insurance benefits, I am pleased we have been able to provide improved product offerings for tribal and resort employees.

Over the last few weeks a team of enrollers have been on the reservation to meet with each employee to discuss the new options and to sign them up if they so choose.

The new products being offered are: Accident Expense Insurance, Accident Indemnity Insurance, Cancer Insurance, Critical Illness Insurance, Short-term Disability, Term Life Insurance, Whole

Life Insurance, and Hospital Indemnity Insurance.

I encourage all tribal and resort employees to take time to discuss and learn about the new options that are available.

CLOSING

In closing I want to express my gratitude to everyone who volunteered and came out to our Choctaw Community Field Days. It took a few months to visit all of the communities but it was a great time of gathering and I hope you received all the information and updates we provided in our brochure and presentation.

Our Tribe is headed in the right direction because of the hard work, dedication and support of our tribal members and employees. Yakoki!

Many Blessings,

Phyliss J. Anderson

Phyliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief



Ponds in the communities of Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Pearl River, Standing Pine, and Tucker were recently stocked with bass, bream, and 300 lbs. of catfish.



The Tribe commemorated Memorial Day with a wreath laying ceremony at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial in Choctaw on Friday, May 27. Members of the Choctaw Veterans Color Guard, MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn, Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, and Choctaw Veterans Affairs Director Sammie Wilson observed a moment of silence after they placed the ceremonial wreath at the base of the memorial.



LEFT, Eighth grade students from Red Water Elementary School invited Chief Anderson to their school as they surprised her with a plaque congratulating her on her recent appointment by Pres. Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

On Wednesday, May 11, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions with the CCHS Unified Basketball Team at the Bistro at Golden Moon Hotel & Casino in Choctaw. The team captured gold medals in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament as they represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi on Saturday, April 2. The games were held at the Mississippi Basketball and Athletics Center in Jackson as Choctaw Central Middle School and High School students participated in individual basketball skills, 3-on-3 traditional team and 5-on-5 unified competitions. Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York. Serving as coach was Amanda Reed. Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at Choctaw Central.





CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary and action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed and submitted to the Policy and Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 12, 2016

Resolution CHO 16-030, approving the Execution, Delivery and Performance of the Term Sheet, Engagement Letter, and Fee Letter, with Trustmark National Bank, as

Administrative Agent of a Proposed Replacement Facility up to \$200,000,000 to be used to Refinance the 2014 Secured Facility and to pay off the 7.25% Senior Secured Notes of the Enterprise; and Approve the Negotiation and Execution by the Enterprise of the Proposed Replacement Facility, including the Credit Agreement, Notes, Security Agreement, Springing Depository Agreement, By and Among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) d/b/a Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, the MBCI, Trustmark National Bank as Administrative Agent and the Lenders Referred to therein; Along with other Agreements, Forms, and Certificates related to the Credit Agreement, the

Limited Waivers of Sovereign Immunity contained therein; and Other Matters Related Thereto, was ADOPTED 16 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-031, authorizing Matthew Tyler of Yale University to Conduct Linguistic Research on the Choctaw Language by Conducting and Recording Interviews with MBCI Tribal Members, was ADOPTED 16 Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-032, approving Dr. Shrinidhi Am-

binakudige to Conduct a Study on Rivercane Ecosystem and Basketry on the Choctaw Indian Reservation, was ADOPTED 11 Yes; 3 No (*T. Chickaway, H. Nickey, B. Steve*); 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*); 1 Absent (*K. Edwards*).

Resolution CHO 16-033, amending the Criminal Code of the Choctaw Tribal Code to Correct an Error on Omission in Section 3-3-21, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-034, amending Title XX of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-035, amending the Criminal Code of the Choctaw Tribal Code to Amend or Add Certain Provisions, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-036, approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the MBCI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0

No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-037, approving Amendments to Title XV of the Tribal Code and Enactment of Related Ordinances, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-038, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-039(B), Authorization of Pearl River Unit #47 Timber Sale, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-040(B), approving the Timber Use Policy Statement for Cutting and Removal of Forest Products from Lands of the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-041(B), approving Land Lease of ½ acre to Toniya Lay, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

.....continued next page

Resort Announces Promotions

Pearl River Resort announced the recent promotions of Tribal members Cheryl Steve as Executive Director of Information Technology (IT) and Rahka Brescia as Director of Operations Compliance.

Steve, who has been with the Resort for 20 years, most recently served as Director of IT Project Management. During her tenure, she has also held several managerial and technical positions within the IT department. She began her gaming career as a computer operator.

In her new role of Executive Director of Information Technology, Steve will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day IT operations which include the overall



From left, Cheryl Steve, Executive Director of Information Technology & Rahka Brescia, Director of Operations Compliance.

planning, organizing, and execution of all IT functions.

Most recently, Brescia served as Guest Services Manager. As Director of Operations Compliance, she will be responsible for monitoring the Resort's reporting compliance with federal and tribal laws, codes, ordinances, regulations, rules and policy.

Brescia will work with each department to build and maintain a sustainable compliance structure for Pearl River Resort.

Congratulations Cheryl and Rahka!

CCHS Seniors Receive Honors At Banquet

Choctaw Central High School hosted their Senior Awards Banquet on March 31 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw.

The Class of 2016, along with parents, guests and school personnel, enjoyed an evening as they were honored for their scholastic achievement for the 2015-2016 school year.

East Central Community College (ECCC) representative Michael Alexander was in attendance to announce ECCC

scholarship recipients.

Recipients of the Academic Achievement Scholarship included Kyree Alex-Ben, Skyler Bell, Forrest Billy, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Nicholas Joe, Tiara Joe, Montel Jordan, Cecilia Ketcher, Tanesha Lewis, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Andreana Morales, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, & Briana Wesley.

Recipients of the ACT (20-23) Scholarship included Dylan Alex, Peyton Bell, Ju-

lian Billy, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Dustin Mingo, Katie Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Coby Smith, and Emilee Thames.

Recipient of the ACT (24-26) Scholarship was Adonis Willis.

Recipient of the ACT (27-30) Tuition Scholarship was Robert York, Jr.

.....continued next page



Academic Achievement Scholarship recipients included Kyree Alex-Ben, Skyler Bell, Forrest Billy, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Nicholas Joe, Tiara Joe, Montel Jordan, Cecilia Ketcher, Tanesha Lewis, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Andreana Morales, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, & Briana Wesley.

Resolution CHO 16-042, authorizing the Sale or Disposal of Damaged Rental Program Mobile Homes, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-043, authorizing Grant Rights-of-Way for Jim Road (BIA Route No.2211) and Hospital Circle (BIA Route No.2226) in Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-044, apply for and Receive a Subgrant from the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc., for Workforce Innovation, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-045, approving a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Mississippi, Department of Human Services and the MBCI, Division of Education, Department of Workforce Development, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-046, approving the 2016-2017

School Calendar, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-047, authorizing the MBCI Department of Schools to Request a Grant from the Association of American Indian Physicians, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-048, authorizing the MBCI Department of Schools to participate in a Research Study of the Farm-to-School Program to be conducted by Research & Evaluation Solutions, Inc., was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-049, authorizing the MBCI, Choctaw Department of Schools to Apply for the Administration for Native Americans Grant for Language Preservation and Maintenance, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-050, authorizing the MBCI Office of Public Health, Choctaw Health Center, to Apply for a Two Year Staff Resource Op-

portunity from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-051, approving a Pharmacy Education Affiliation Agreement between the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy and the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-052(B), approving Increase in Blood Degree for Previously Enrolled Tribal Members, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-053(B), approving a Blood Decrease for Previously Enrolled Tribal Member, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-054(B), approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-055, approving Publication Request by Abigail Farmer of Jackson State University on "Choctaw

Tribal School Instructional Aides' Perceptions of Preparedness for Implementing Choctaw Language Materials in Elementary Classrooms," was ADOPTED 15 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstain (*R. Henry*).

Resolution CHO 16-056, approving Amendments to the Administrative Personnel Policy & Procedures, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, K. Edwards, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 7 No (*T. Chickaway, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, & B. Steve*); 0 Abstain.

Resolution CHO 16-057, approving Amendments to the Tribal Council Expense Allowance Policies, was ADOPTED 9 Yes (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, K. Edwards, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 5 No (*T. Chickaway, R. Isaac, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, & B. Steve*); & 2 Abstain (*R. Henry & S. Johnson*).

Students Place at Region V Fair

The 2016 Region V Lower Science and Engineering Fair for grades K-5 was held at Mississippi State University in Starkville on April 7. The following students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools placed at the event.

Kindergarten

Ashton Stephens, 1st; Zachary Polk, 2nd; & Bryceton McMillan, 3rd.

First Grade

Biochemistry - Jacoby Willis, 2nd.

Chemistry - Nakota Willis, 3rd.

Earth, Space, and Environmental Sciences - Shastyn Lewis, 3rd; Tali King, 5th.

Zoology - Nuseka Dixon, 3rd.

Second Grade

Biochemistry - Aston Eades, 4th.

Botany - Carlisle Phillips, 4th.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - Ferris Tubby, 3rd; Jennalee McMillan, 5th.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - Makailah Moore, 1st; Nollynn Bell, 3rd; & Ansley Wallace, 4th.

Physics - Kodi Thomas, 4th.

Third Grade

Chemistry - Brylee Willis, 2nd.

Earth, Space, & Environmental Sciences - Nathanael Nickey, 6th.

Engineering, Computers, & Math - Callie Amos, 1st.

Medicine & Health - Almera Charlie, 6th.

Zoology - Kaegan Henry, 5th.

CLASS II

Fourth Grade

Biochemistry - Zavian Tubby, 5th.

Botany - Kailyn Steve, 4th.

Physics - Nataysia Willis, 5th.

Fifth Grade

Medicine & Health - Lexie Love, 5th.

Physics - Tyra Billy, 4th.

Recipient of the ACT (31-36) Tuition/Room Board Scholarship was Nicholas McMillian.

The following subject awards and recipients are listed below.

Culinary Arts I - Adonis Willis.

Culinary Arts II - Carlee Jimmie.

Business Fundamentals - Kaleigh Allen.

Automotive Service - Bryson Sam.

Construction - Bradley Billy.

Health Science - Adonis Willis.

Academic Achievement - Kaleigh Allen.

Academic Excellence - Kassie Cox.

Personal Finance - Peyton Bell.

Band - Coby Smith.

Spanish I - Emilee Thames.

Spanish II - Nicholas McMillian.

Choctaw Language & History - Kassie Cox.

U.S. Government - Emilee Thames.

Economics - Harvey McMillan.

Chemistry - Kassie Cox.

Physics - Cecilia Ketcher.

Forensics - Nicholas McMillian.

Algebra II - Kassie Cox.

Trigonometry - Coby Smith.

Advanced Algebra - Tiara Joe.

.....see SENIORS, pg. 6



ACT Scholarship recipients included Dylan Alex, Peyton Bell, Julian Billy, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Dustin Mingo, Katie Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Coby Smith, and Emilee Thames.



CCHS Class of 2016 Top Ten were Peyton Bell, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Tiara Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Emilee Thames, & Robert York, Jr.

SENIORS continued from page five

PreCalculus - Peyton Bell.
Calculus - Emilee Thames.
English IV - Adonis Willis.
AP Literature & Composition - Nicholas McMillian.
Nicholas McMillian was named Valedictorian and Emilee Thames was named Salutatorian. McMillian was also named the 2016 Mississippi Economic Council

STAR Student. Jamie Franklin was named STAR Teacher for the second consecutive year in a row.
The Class of 2016 Top Ten included Peyton Bell, Kassie Cox, Hallie Denson, Tiara Joe, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Emilee Thames, & Robert York, Jr.



TOP LEFT, Pictured from left are ACT Scholarship recipients Adonis Willis, Robert York, Jr. & Nicholas McMillian. **TOP RIGHT**, From left, Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian & Salutatorian Emilee Thames. **RIGHT**, Pictured from left are CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, STAR Student Nicholas McMillian & STAR Teacher Jamie Franklin.

Parents Visit TES Science Class

We had a special assignment for students at Tucker Elementary School for extra credit work. Their assignment was to find information pertaining to their favorite aspect of science and present what they learned to the class.

Students Spencer & Maggie Thompson decided to bring a pet to class, their three-year old guinea pig named Benjamin.

Parents Johnathan & LaRosa Thompson brought Benjamin to school so Spencer and Maggie can tell their classmates about Benjamin's life expectancy, habitat, and nutrition.

Students Record for Rural Voices Radio

On Saturday, April 30, twenty-three Choctaw Central High School students and one teacher recorded their narrative writing for Rural Voices Radio (RVR) for Mississippi's Public Broadcasting (MPB). Writing for radio and recording a piece of writing is a unique opportunity for our students' voices to be heard.

Choctaw Central students have been reading for RVR since 2008. CCHS teachers have made it their goal to encourage students to write in all subject areas. These writings chosen for RVR not only came from English classrooms, but from math, history, Choctaw culture, and science classes. Teachers, as well as students, are involved in writing.

Those who recorded included coach Daniel Thomas, Jayna Ben, Lauren Ben, Jennard Bollin, Teegan Clemmons, Hallie Denson, Jasmine Hickman, Pegan Jackson, Asa Jimmie, Martrikus Jimmie, Maleighia Joe, Eason John, Cecilia Ketcher, Autumn McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Betty Mingo, Jayasri Mitch, Angelia Morales, Dylan Nickey, Hope Pesata, LaChrisha Williams, Mi-Lyn Jones

.....continued next page



Pictured, front row from left, are Jennard Bollin, Nicholas McMillian, Martrikus Jimmie, Eason John, Asa Jimmie, Tyler Bell; back row, Jasmine Hickman, Autumn McMillan, Pegan Jackson, Maleighia Joe, Angelia Morales, Teegan Clemmons, LaChrisha Williams, Hope Pesata, Jayna Ben, Lauren Ben, Jayasri Mitch, & Whitney Willis.

Autism Walk Held At CCHS

In observance of April as National Autism Month, the Choctaw Tribal Schools hosted an Autism Celebration Walk on April 22 at the Choctaw Central High School track in Choctaw. Autism is a complex mental condition and developmental disability, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. Autism can be present from birth or form during early childhood (typically within the first three



years). Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with no single known cause. Pictured above are the walk participants.

GRADUATION continued from page one

teacher Ferrell Davidson announced the names and Chief Anderson awarded the diplomas.

Senior class president Breanna Isaac and vice-president Robert York, Jr. offered the benediction. Afterwards, the graduates tossed their caps in the air as Pomp and Circumstance played overhead.

Members of CCHS's Class of 2016 included: Dylan Alex, Kyree Alex-Ben, Kaleigh Allen, Brooklyn Bell, Kayla Bell, Peyton Bell, Ryan Bell, Skyler Bell, Ashlyn Billie, Bradley Billy, Forrest Billy, Julian Billy, Kassie Cox, Marina Davis, Hallie Denson, Anfernee Dixon, Onedaro Dixon, Stormin Dixon, Kelly Dumont.

Jalena Farve, Roberto Fonseca, Anthony Gonzalez, Malaina Grasshopper, Jasmine Hickman, Breanna Isaac, Pegan Jackson, Reanna Jefferson, Titus Jim, Carlee Jimmie, Hillary Joe, Kayla Joe, Nicolas Joe, Tiara Joe, Billy Johnson, Jr., Lattoriah Johnson, Mi-Lyn Jones-Williams, Montel Jordan.

Cecilia Ketcher, Garyton Lilly, Autumn McMillan, Harvey McMillan, Jr., Laraya McMillan, Marayah McMillan, Nicholas McMillian, Darrel Mingo, Jr., Dustin Mingo, Tayshaun Mingo, Michael Mitch, Jr., Andreana Morales, Bryson Sam, Shawn Shoemake, Tiffany Shoemake, Ammery Smith, Coby Smith, Aleyah Sockey, Janeisa Steve, Tristen Steve.

Emilee Thames, Coby Tubby, Hananiah Tubby, Kendall Vaughn, Jasmine Wallace, Samuel Wallace, Briana Wesley, Damion Williams, Adonis Willis, Keyshawn Willis, Reanna Willis, Shanteria Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, Karl Wilson, Keynon Wilson, Lucas Wilson, Shawn Wishork, and Robert York, Jr.

Williams, Michael Willis, & Whitney Willis.

Reading coaches were Dr. Sherry Swain (National Writing Project), Coach Thomas (World History teacher), Andy Hardy (English IV teacher), Beverly Combs (English II teacher), and Julia Faulk (lead teacher).

Students/teachers who had their writings chosen for RVR but will record at a later date include Sarah Allen, Peyton Bell, Terrell Bell, Tyler Bell, Frances Bigby, Forrest Billy, Isaiah Billy, Jacob Billy, Carol Boler, Dana Briscoe, Beverly Combs, Keyana Denson, Jaylen Dixon, Madison Dixon,

Sri Grant, Ricky Graves, Breanna Isaac, Lindy Jim, Summer John, Jennifer Jones, Renee Jones, Raina King, Cade Lilly, Ray Mathis, Cynthia McLeod, Harvey McMillan, Katarina McMillan, Tammy Morgan, Quentin Nanaeto, Neshoba Reed, Richard Rivers, Crystal Roach, Emily

Shoemake, Emilee Thames, Linda Tingle, Gabriel Tubby, Kendall Vaughn, Tyus Whitecrow, and Aurelia Wilcher.

Since July 2003, MPB has aired pieces from the Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute's Rural Voices Radio series. Students across the state can be heard on eight MPB

stations each weekday at 3:28 p.m. Stations include Meridian 88.1, Oxford 90.3, Booneville 89.5, Mississippi State 89.9, Greenwood 90.0, Jackson 91.3, Bude 88.9, & Biloxi 90.3.

To hear past shows, visit the RVR archives at www.mwti.msstate.edu/radio.



From left, the Southern Pine Drummers sang to commemorate Child Abuse Prevention Month on the Choctaw Reservation. Providing remarks included Department of Human Services Region IV North Director Iris Joiner & Division of Early Childhood Education Director Tina Routh.

CFS Observes Child Abuse Awareness Month

Children and Family Service (CFS) hosted several events during the month of April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

CFS kicked off the month with a planting of a pin wheel garden at CFS office grounds on April 6. We were pleased to

have several Head Start children assist us. We thank Division of Early Childhood Education Director Tina Routh and other staff members for making this day a memorable one.

We thank Department of Human Services Region IV

North Director Iris Joiner who attended the event and spoke about the collaboration between the state of Mississippi and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

CFS also thanks Dan Isaac and the Southern Pine Drummers as they are always willing to perform at any CFS event.

Several CFS staff members attended a walk in the Bogue Homa community on April 20.



Pictured above are several DOECE Head Start children as they planted a pin wheel garden on the ground of the CFS office.

A poster contest was held as Seyonea Thomas was named the winner.

CFS staff members traveled to the area Tribal schools and spoke to students about child abuse prevention and awareness.

The final event for the month was a child abuse awareness fun run, Color Me Blue, on April 30 at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw.

CFS would like to thank all the children who participated in the poster contest, which ran in conjunction with area schools. In our eyes, you are all winners.

In Category K-2nd Grade - Jacoby Willis, first grader at Tucker Elementary School, placed first; Mahayla Tubby, second grader at Pearl River Elementary School, placed second.

In Category 3rd-5th Grade - Jeri-

RIGHT, Bogue Homa poster contest winner Seyonea Thomas.

ah Jimmie, Hayden Wofford, Alex Espinosa, & Patsden Williams (Boys & Girls) placed first; Kodin Mingo, fourth grader at Conehatta Elementary School, placed second.

In Category 6th-8th Grade - Martina Willis, eighth grader at Choctaw Central Middle School (CCMS), placed first; Cody Roach, eighth grader at CCMS, placed second.

In Category 9th-12th Grade - Treyton Ben, ninth grader at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS), placed first; Keyshaun Nickey, ninth grader at CCHS, placed second.

CFS would like to acknowledge Pearl River Resort for their donation toward recognizing foster parents.

(See poster contest winners, pg. 10)



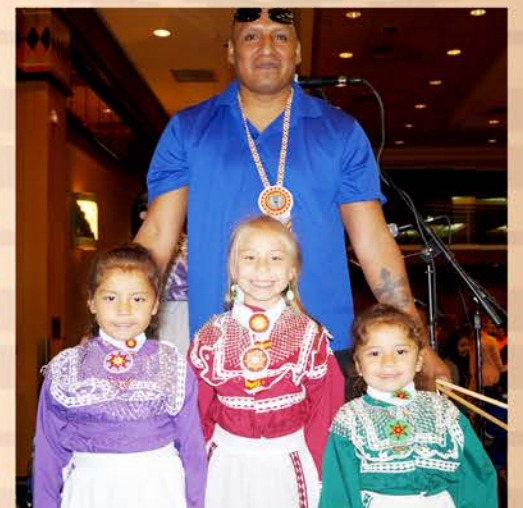
Members Meet Tribal Athletes

Members of the Boys & Girls Club Pearl River Teen Center attended collegiate games participated by Tribal members. **TOP**, Members attended the April 24 Ole Miss Rebels-Arkansas Razorbacks softball game in Oxford as freshman shortstop Hailey Lunderman (Mississippi Choctaw/Lakota) took the field for the Rebels. **BELOW**, Freshman pitcher Brandon Kennedy (Mississippi Choctaw) talked to club members after his baseball game on April 25. Kennedy plays for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Bulldogs in Perkin-



ston. Teen Center members greatly appreciate Lunderman & Kennedy for meeting them after their games as they offered words of encouragement. We wish them best of luck in their collegiate careers.





2016 Spring Festivals

Spring Festivals are major community events as much work & effort is directed toward acquiring traditional Choctaw garments & accessories for young Choctaw boys & girls. It is believed that over 95 percent of students participating in Spring Festivals wear traditional Choctaw apparel.

The earliest Spring Festival memories go back to 1960 on the campus of Choctaw Central where all students in grades K-12 participated & danced by grades. At that time it was estimated that five percent of festival participants wore traditional Choctaw apparel.

During these Spring Festivals, it was customary for the final dance to feature tribal elders exclusively. Following their dance, a traditional feast was served.

Prior to 1968, all Choctaw schools gathered & celebrated a May Day Program at Choctaw Central on the football field. The girls wore black skirts & white blouses & the boys wore black pants & white shirts. Patriotic songs & dances were performed, followed by a picnic held under the pine trees.

In 1970, with a goal of increasing student participation & attendance by community residents, a decision was made for each community school to host their own Spring Festival.

This year's Spring Festivals were held at Tucker Elementary School on March 17, Bogue Chitto Elementary School on March 18, Standing Pine Elementary School on April 1, Red Water Elementary School on April 8, Conehatta Elementary School on April 15, & Pearl River Elementary School on April 29.





Programs Host Pow Wow For Victim Support

April was observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as the Choctaw SANE-SART

Program, in collaboration with the Choctaw Public Safety Program, hosted the *Masala*

Chi I Hilha/Dance to Healing Pow Wow on Saturday, April 23 at the Pearl River Recre-

ational Field.

The pow wow, held in support of victims of sexual assault, brought people together to start the healing process through music and dancing, which is known to have calm and soothing effects on people.

There was a very good turnout for the pow wow as organizers said it was a wonderful sight to see the children getting involved and dancing.

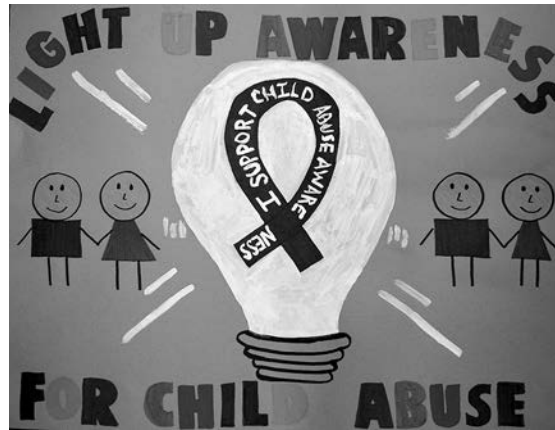
The sponsors thank all at-

tendees, vendors, drummers, dancers, chanters, and cooks for making the event possible.

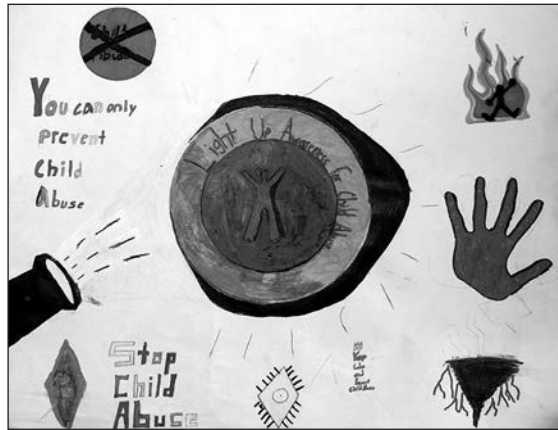
They also thank Kathleen Ferris of Family Violence and Victim's Services, Juannina Mingo of Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter, Kelby Anderson of the Choctaw Public Safety Program, Evaline Davis, James Johnson and Leland Lewis for sharing their thoughts and knowledge of sexual assault with those in

.....continued next page

POSTER WINNERS continued from page seven



K-2nd Grade - (left) Jacoby Willis, TES, 1st place; (right) Mahayla Tubby, PRES, 2nd place.



3rd-5th Grade - (left) Jeriah Jimmie, Hayden Wofford, Alex Espinosa, & Patsden Williams, Boys & Girls Club, 1st place; (right) Kodin Mingo, CES, 2nd place.



6th-8th Grade - (left) Martina Willis, CCMS, 1st place; (right) Cody Roach, CCMS, 2nd place.



9th-12th Grade - (left) Treyton Ben, CCHS, 1st place; (right) Keyshaun Nickey, CCHS, 2nd place.



SAVE THE DATE!

6TH ANNUAL

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE

PATHWAYS TO JUSTICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SILVER STAR CONFERENCE ROOM
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [HTTP://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS](http://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS).
E-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1, 2016.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR, CONTACT CHIEF JUSTICE KEVIN BRISCOE OR YOUTH COURT JUDGE HOLLY PETERS AT 601-650-1658.

Weaving Healthy Families Project

Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people (about healthy families, overcoming trauma & violence, lowering family conflict & improving the well-being of community members)!

Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult MBCI member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards

- What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 & above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45
- OR, if you prefer, you can contact Catherine at: cburnet3@tulane.edu or 504-862-3495, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the info for you)**

Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.

attendance.

Special thanks to Harold "Doc" Comby for helping with the event as they hope to work together again for next year's event.

Most often, a perpetrator is someone that we love and trust, such as a family member. It is hard to accept that this person has committed such an assault on another person, whether it's a child or an adult. That sometimes leads to denial that the assault has actually happened.

That is why information is important to let victims know they are not alone. We, as a community, need to focus on the victim and show them support. Be aware of ways your biases about sexual assault and victims may affect your ability to support and assist the victim. If you cannot be objective, refer the person to pro-

grams that can offer services as they help the victim from being re-victimized.

We need to start holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions. We may feel that we don't want to ruin their lives by having them convicted, but they have forever altered the lives of victims they have assaulted. As long as we continue to overlook what they are doing, they will continue to victimize others.

The Department of Family and Community Services has services to provide support for victims of sexual assault. For more information, contact the Family Violence and Victim's Services Program (601-650-1774), Choctaw Children's Advocacy Program (601-663-7790) or the Choctaw SANE-SART Program (601-663-7796).



Dance to Healing Event Held in Choctaw

On Saturday, April 23, the Family Violence and Victim's Services (FVVS) participated in the Dance to Healing powwow hosted by the Choctaw SANE-SART Program, in collaboration with the Choctaw Public Safety Program.

At the conclusion of the event, FVVS staff members led a Take Back the Night walk in an effort to end all forms of sexual, relationship and domestic violence. We, as a community, stand against these issues and stand together to heal our sacred communities.

We thank all walk participants and would like everyone to take time to remember as we need to come together as a community to stop these atrocities and heal. We need to hold offenders accountable and help the ones victimized to heal their minds, bodies and spirits.

If you have been a victim of sexual assault you need to know your rights.

You have the right to be notified of:

- All victims' rights;
- Return of property used in

investigation;

- Charges filed;
- Criminal proceedings and results;
- Release, death, or escape/capture of the offender.

You have the right to participate in prosecution:

- Right to talk to prosecution before final disposition of case;
- Right to talk to prosecution prior to beginning of trial;
- Right to trial without unreasonable delay;
- Right to purchase copy of the trial transcript;
- Right to be present at proceedings before a judge;
- Right to attend the sentencing hearing;
- Right to inform the court of impact of crime at sentencing;
- Right to address the parole system.

You have the right to protection from harm:



• Tampering with a witness is a crime;

• Victims have a right to a secure waiting area during court;

• Employers may not discipline or dismiss victims who are called to testify in court.

You have the right to apply for financial assistance. Victims may be eligible for financial assistance from the state if they have suffered economic loss as a result of a violent crime. Victims can request the court to order the defendant to pay restitution.

Exercising these rights may require action by you. For more information, contact Victim Assistance Program, Office of the Attorney General, at 800-829-6766.

FAQ's ABOUT SEXUAL ASSAULT

CAN I GET HELP AT FVVS?

FVVS works with men and women who are 18 and over. The Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center (CCAC) helps victims who are 17 and under. We can help you if you are a victim or survivor of rape,

sexual assault, sexual abuse or domestic violence or if someone in your family is a victim or survivor. Services at FVVS are free. We believe that money and insurance should never prevent people from getting the help they need.

IF I GO TO FVVS, WILL THEY TELL ANYONE?

Services at FVVS are confidential. That means that we cannot tell anyone anything without your written consent. Your privacy and comfort are very important to us. It is important to understand that there are exceptions to confidentiality. We are required to follow the Mandated Reporting laws, which require us to report any suspected cases of child abuse, neglect, and we are also required to report to law enforcement if you tell us you plan to hurt yourself or anyone else.

I WAS RAPED, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO THE POLICE. DO I HAVE TO REPORT IT?

It is completely up to you whether or not to report a rape or sexual assault. If you want

the person who attacked you to go to jail, then you have to report the crime to the police - the sooner the better. You do not have to report to the police in order to get services through FVVS.

I HAVE HEARD THE MEDICAL EXAM IS SCARY. DO I HAVE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?

It is extremely important for you to get medical attention as soon as possible. You may have injuries that are not apparent. The doctor or nurse can give you emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy and medications to prevent HIV and AIDS. The hospital will call the police only if you want them to. You will also be offered an advocate from the FVVS office to be with you during the exam to answer any questions.

IF I DON'T REPORT THE ASSAULT, CAN I CHANGE MY MIND AND REPORT IT LATER?

You can always file a report with the police, but it is best to

...see FVVS NEWS, pg. 12

FFVS NEWS continued from page eleven

do so right away. Your memory will be most clear soon after the attack, and there may be physical evidence that will be lost if you wait. Reporting the crime right away and having a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner collect evidence during a

medical examination increases the chances that your attacker can be caught and prosecuted.

WILL THE PERSON WHO SEXUALLY ASSAULTED ME GO TO JAIL?

Sexual assault is a serious crime. If you choose to report your assault to law enforcement, the Attorney General's office will decide if there is enough evidence to bring charges against the attacker. If convicted, it is possible that the attacker could receive a jail or prison sentence.

WHAT IF I WAS ON A DATE OR AT A PARTY? WILL ANYONE BELIEVE ME?

Sexual assault is a crime. It does not matter if you were on a date, at a party, or if you were drinking when it happened. It is never okay for someone to force sex on you. Under the law, date and acquaintance rape are no different from rape by a stranger.

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED. HOW DO I KNOW IF I WAS DRUGGED?

People who have had rape

drugs slipped into a drink often do not remember what happened while they were unconscious. They may remember what happened but not be able to remember clearly. If you have memory loss and

have been sexually assaulted, you may have been given a rape drug such as Rohypnol, or GHB. If you think you have been drugged, get to a hospital right away.

If you or someone you know

has been a victim of violence, please contact the Family Violence and Victim's Services offices at 601-650-1774.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI



Tribal members participated in the round comb decorating class in Standing Pine.

Round Comb Workshop

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted their fourth round comb workshop at the Standing Pine Facility Building on Monday, April 4. The class was coordinated by May McGeisey.

The purpose of the workshop was to issue the latest style of round combs to participants and teach them to decorate it the modern way with rhinestone application. Seventeen tribal members attended

.....continued next page

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

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or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

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- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD**, up to \$1,000!

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It! Report It! Stop It!

Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774

Denson Attends CANAR Conference

Theron Denson, Work Adjustment Skills Trainer with the Choctaw Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program, attended the CANAR (Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation) mid-year training conference.

He represented the program by walking in the grand entry of programs and carrying the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians flag. He was recognized with a certificate of appreciation for his volunteerism at the conference in facilitating breakout sessions. He also submitted artwork that was included in the conference agenda booklet.

By attending training conferences, program staff are able to learn new techniques and best practices to bring back to their day-to-day work with Tribal members who have physical or mental conditions that impact their employment.

Program staff members strive to provide the highest quality services as possible. Continued training helps the staff understand



Pictured above is Theron Denson with the tribal flag at the CANAR conference.

Federal funding agency rules and expectations regarding service provisions and to learn from others striving to provide high quality services in their communities.

If you are a Tribal member who has a physical or mental condition and that condition is significantly impacting your employment, you may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. For more information, contact Billy Smith at 601-650-7343.



From left are Education & Outreach Coordinator Trudy Jimmie, Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond, Canton Mayor Arnel Bolden, & basket weaver Rosie Joe.

the workshop.

Sherrill Nickey, of the Chahta Immi Cultural Center, brought round combs for sale from the Choctaw Museum. Instructors for the sessions included McGeisey, Shayna McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, and Casey Bigpond.

"Living History"

"Living History," an event hosted by the Madison County Canton Historical Society - Canton Redevelopment Authority, took place at the Madison County Historic Jail in Canton on Friday, April 15.

Several Tribal members were in attendance as they made cultural presentations to third to fifth grade students on the history and cultural aspect of the area they reside in.

Rosie Joe demonstrated her methods of basket weaving and Casey Bigpond gave an overview on Choctaw blow guns and darts.

Trudy Jimmie and May McGeisey gave a brief summary on preparing hominy the Choctaw way and how to cook it. Preparing hominy does not involve a whole lot, but they emphasized long hours and tiresome labor required to prepare the hominy.

The Mississippi Agricultural Museum also participated, making the event even more educational and interesting.

Collar Necklace Workshop

A collar necklace workshop, coordinated by Trudy Jimmie of CAP, was held in the Standing Pine Facility Building on Tuesday, April 19. Larry Thomas and Larin Thomas, Industrial Trainers from Vocational Rehabilitation, were

also in attendance.

For beading workshops, CAP usually provides start-up supplies as the staff teaches participants the basic steps for beginners. In order to complete a collar necklace, a significant amount of beads and long hours are required.

Anita Winstead, of Fashions & Fabrics in Philadelphia, travels to the workshops for participants to purchase needed supplies. Winstead has a great deal of knowledge about the Choctaw culture and knows exactly what to bring.

The staff and participants are very thankful and appreciative for her service in providing availability of items needed for the workshops.

VRS Training

Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie and May McGeisey conducted a "How to Bead on a Loom" workshop for staff members of the Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) on Wednesday, April 27 at the Industrial Training Component.

The concept of the training was for the VRS staff to redirect their learning experiences to the trainees in hopes that they will be taught protocols to market the products to the general public and generate funds back into the program.

The CAP staff were excited and elated because the cultural education VRS received from their training will hopefully empower the trainees on their Choctaw culture and boost their income.

Preparing Hominy

DCI-CAP Cultural Researcher May McGeisey and



From left, participants Carolyn Willis, Pandora Sockey & Patricia Willis at the beading session in Standing Pine.

DCI Special Project/Media Coordinator Eddie Johnson, in cooperation with the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, attended a very special cultural training activity at the Industrial Component site at the Choctaw Manpower Building on Thursday, April 20, as they recorded and photographed the process of preparing hominy by the training program volunteers.

The activity focused on documenting, promoting Choctaw ways and encouraging knowledge sharing utilizing traditional based methods to make hominy for future references, presentations and archival purposes.

Volunteers were under the coordination of VRS Industrial Trainer Larry Thomas. Trainees who shared their information included Israel Willis, Gerald Denson, Carolyn Gibson, and Curtis Willis.

Cultural Workshops

The CAP will not offer cultural classes after the round comb workshop in the Pearl River community on Monday,



Larin Thomas, left, is heavily concentrating on his bead pattern. Israel Willis (right) pounds corn in a mortar (kiti) using a pestle (tachi ishit litóli or boli) to loosen hulls from the kernels.

June 6 due to upcoming preparations for the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on July 13-16.

Classes will resume on Monday, Aug. 1 in the Bogue Homa community for the round comb workshop. The remaining classes are listed below:

Tuesday, Aug. 9 - Blow guns & dart making in Tucker;

Friday, Aug. 12 - Medallion beading in Standing Pine;

Tuesday, Aug. 16 - Headband making in Bogue Homa;

Friday, Sept. 2 - Choctaw dress making in Conehatta;

Monday, Sept. 5 - Round comb making in Conehatta;

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Pottery firing part 2 in Pearl River;

Tuesday, Sept. 20 - Stickball apron making in Red Water.

Please make plans to attend!



CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

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TUESDAY - SATURDAY
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MILITARY DISCOUNT \$3
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CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

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(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only

IN MEMORIAM

RONIE MAE TUBBY

Funeral service for Ronie Mae Tubby, 61, was held on Sunday, May 1, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Tubby passed away on April 27 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a kitchen worker at the Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed spending time with her family, watching TV cooking shows & attending ball games. She was a fan of Warriors Stickball.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Victoria Jeffer-

son; daughters, Doris Tubby & Chasity Renee Tubby; a son, Gabriel Lee Tubby; a sister, Fronie Mae Tubby; a brother, James Monroe Shoemake; five grandchildren; & a nephew.

Survivors include her father, Hubert Shoemake; daughters, Shelley Tubby, Lois Tubby & Makila Tubby; sons, William Scott Tubby, Sr. & Brandon Keith Tubby; brothers, Hilbert Shoemake, Gerald Shoemake & Bernon Shoemake; 26 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; & numerous nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

WILTON FARMER

Funeral service for Wilton Farmer, 82, was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Com-

munity Gymnasium. Father Mike Thornton officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Farmer passed away on May 1 at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.

He enjoyed reading, playing & watching baseball, & being around family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Howard & Lonnie Farmer; wife, Edith Ray Farmer; a sister, Martha Jim; daughters, Mary Upshaw & Vena Solomon; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include his sisters, Lula Lewis & Louise Wallace; a daughter, Rose Marie Farmer; a son, Lee Farmer; 14 grandchildren; & a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

LORIANNA LYNELL SHOEMAKE

Funeral service for Lorianna Lynell Shoemake, 31, was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Bro. Lee Farmer & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Shoemake passed away on May 14 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed as a greeter at the Silver Star Hotel & Casino. She enjoyed spending time with her family, fishing, texting, & dancing. She was a fan of Conehatta Stickball.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John & Nelda Shoemake; grandparents,

.....continued next page

PRCDC Thanks Supporters

The Pearl River Community Development Club officers (Austin Tubby, president; Michael Lozares, vice-president & Miranda Farve, secretary/treasurer) thank all who participated in club meetings and to the volunteers who helped during community events and tournaments.

The club also recognizes Pearl River Tribal Council representatives Stella Willis, Lola Parkerson & Cheriena Ben for their contributions.

The club hosted a dinner and bingo on American Indian Day and, more recently, two

successful fundraiser volleyball tournaments. All proceeds went to the Pearl River community princess contestant and for additional upcoming community events.

The club appreciates all teams who participated in our tournaments.

Teams placing first in the March 19 tournament in Tucker included: (womens) Breana Chickaway's team; (co-ed) Elter Wilson's team.

Teams placing first in the April 16 tournament in Pearl River included: (womens) Priscilla Williams' team; (co-ed) Elter Wilson's team.

All Pearl River community residents are invited to regular meetings held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Justice Complex community meeting room.



ABOVE, PRCDC volleyball tournament winners on April 16 in Pearl River included (top) womens champion Priscilla Williams' team & (bottom) co-ed champion Elter Wilson's team. MVP's were Gail Tubby (pictured top, center) & Darryl Solomon, Jr. (pictured bottom, center). Pictured far right is PRCDC President Austin Tubby.



LEFT, PRCDC hosted a dinner & bingo on American Indian Day at the Pearl River Community Center.

Newt & Leona Jefferson, Edmond & Berdie Shoemake; a sister, Evelyn Shoemake; a niece & an uncle.

Survivors include sisters, Barbarella Johnson, Christon Flores & Lachristianna Shoemake; brothers, Gerald Isom, Sr., Jamion Shoemake, Manuel Shoemake, & Demanuel Shoemake; a special person, Davin Solomon; three aunts; three uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY LELAND MORRIS

Funeral service for Jimmy Leland Morris, 64, was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Morris passed away on May 13 at his residence.

He was a Baptist by faith & a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. He enjoyed watching TV game shows, doing crossword puzzles & watching his grandchildren play sports.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe & Winnie Morris; a daughter, Jamie Morris; brothers, RB Morris, Olen Morris, Marvin Morris, & Leo Morris; half-brothers, George Hickman, Snood Hickman, Felix Hickman, Sam Hickman, & Willis Hickman, Sr.; half-sisters, Eula Thompson, Frances Aguilar, Onie Smith, Margie Charlie, & Martha Bell; two aunts & an uncle.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Morris; two daughters, Melody Morris & Brenda Ray; five grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

PATSY SAM BUFFINGTON

Funeral service for Patsy Sam Buffington, 73, was held on Monday, May 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. McClain-Hays Fu-

neral Service was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Buffington passed away on May 18 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

In 1955, she was crowned the first Choctaw Indian Princess at the Green Corn Festival at the age of 13. At Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan., she was the homecoming queen & homecoming jubilee queen.

She owned the Village Co-op in Pearl River & also worked at Choctaw Housing Authority, Harold's Short Stop & Pearl River Resort. She enjoyed spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Nellie Sam; a sister, Carol Henry; a granddaughter, & a nephew.

Survivors include her daughter, Christina Buffington; sons, Kevin Butler, Ken Butler, Karl Butler, & Kenny Johnson; 22 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; a niece, nephew & a host of relatives & friends.

ADELAIDE HICKMAN JOHNSON

Funeral service for Adelaide Hickman Johnson, 66,

was held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from the Memorial Park Funeral Home in Memphis, Tenn. Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial Park Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Johnson passed away on May 20 in Memphis.

She was employed at various printing companies, American Greetings, The Commercial Appeal, & Fed-Ex. She loved fishing, doing beadwork, sewing, playing softball, & playing pool.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Donald Hickman & Christopher Johnson; parents, Homer Sam Hickman & Nola Thompson Hickman; brothers, Robert Hickman & Dewayne Hickman; & a sister, Clara Hickman.

Survivors include two daughters, Brenda Frazier & Audrey Hickman; sisters, Reba Lewis & Vivian Ben; a brother, Cary Hickman; 12 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

JIMMIE JOE FRAZIER

Funeral service for Jimmie Joe Frazier, 71, was held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Frazier passed away on May 22 at Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville, Ark.

He enjoyed gospel singing, reading his Bible, praying, fishing, playing baseball, tossing horse shoes, bead work, &

being at family gatherings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Joe & Bessie Frazier Morris; wife, Bettie L. Frazier; a son, Henry L. Frazier; sisters, Pauline Williams & Carolyn Nickey; & brothers, Quincy Morris, Randall Morris, Sr. & Burnice Morris.

Survivors include daughters, Phyllis Boldra & Claudine Riffe; sisters, Arlene Morris, Melba Cline & Mary Lou Morris; two brothers, Harris Morris & Larry Morris; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; an aunt, uncle & a host of relatives & friends.

In Memory of Mary Lene (Bell) Silmon

Sunrise: June 21, 1941

Sunset: March 24, 2016



Mary went to be with the Lord on March 24, 2016. She passed away at the Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City. A wake was held on March 28 at the First Baptist Indian Church in Shawnee. Funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 29, with interment at Resthaven Memorial Park. Resthaven Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mary was born on June 21, 1941, in Philadelphia, Miss., to Frank Keen Bell, Sr. & Ivenia Lewis Bell. She attended Pearl River Indian School in Philadelphia & graduated from Chillico Indian School in 1960. She worked as a dental assistant with the Indian Health Services (IHS) in Talihina, Okla., & later became an IHS clinic supervisor in Ada, Okla. She retired after 36 years of service. In her spare time, she was a Mary Kay consultant.

Mary served as treasurer at First Baptist Indian Church & was in charge of the nursery & mission groups. Her mission work took her, her husband (Turner) & other church members to different churches. While visiting Mississippi in July 2015, Mary joined the Native Praise Group. The group, consisting of various tribal members singing each other's songs in their native language, travel across the U.S. & other countries.

On July 18, they performed at a Native American mission work training at Macedonia Baptist Church in Petal, Miss. On July 19, they sang at the First Baptist Church in Philadelphia as Mary was thrilled to sing in her hometown. Prior to this visit, she sang with the group at Pearl River Baptist Church.

When Mary & her husband were not involved in church work, they enjoyed camping near the Tushkahoma festival site every September or watching their grandchildren play ball.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, Frank Keen Bell, Sr. & Ivenia Bell; sisters, Judie Rae Bell-Billie & Ennie Ryan Bell-Billy; & grandparents, Thompson & Ellen Isaac Bell.

Mary is survived by her husband of 52 years, Turner Silmon, Jr.; a daughter, Lahoma Gayle Silmon-Roberts (Donyell); a son, Mark Allen Silmon; grandchildren, Danielle, Christine & Misty McGirt, Dakota & Zachary Silmon; great-grandchildren, Aurelius, Iunicius, Kenacius, Leonidas, Tiana, & Briseis McGirt; siblings, Frank Bell, Jr., Harlon Dwight Bell, Melba Smith (Roger), & Rose Cutler (Terry); & a host of nieces & nephews.

Welcome To

NANIH WAIYA
INDIAN
Mennonite Church

Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-5446
Pastor Thomas Ben

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

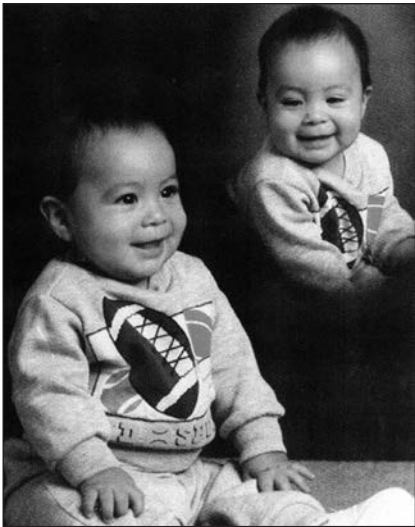
5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family
Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

*To the Jews who had believed him,
Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*



RIGHT,
Happy 30th
Birthday to
Andrew Lane
Henry on
May 2, with
lots of hugs
& kisses
from Mom,
Shena, Riley,
Pay Pay, Cay
Cay, Kenae,
& the rest of
the family &
friends.



Happy Birthday to our amazing 2 year-old monster, Alice Roxanne Ferris! You have been this amazing blessing we have always hoped & prayed for. You make each day better than the last & keep us on our toes! We love you so much & pray for nothing but good things for you baby girl. Love Mama, Not the Mama, Alisha, & Grandma :))



Happy Mother's Day to the "Greatest Mother & Grandmother" in the world, Mrs. Linda Carey! Love from Gene, T-Bear, Jr., McKiah, Eutan, Brandon, James, Tracy, Brett, Emily, Katie, Yo-Yo, Doreen, Chayton, Tehya, Cailou, Mikey, Robin, & Bradon.

Happy Birthday to my brother, Antonial Thomas, Sr., on May 1. With love from your brothers Bridgeo Sr. & Marco Sr., your sister Chantele, kids, Mom, Dad, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday to our dad, Kenneth Phillips, on May 2. With love from your sons, baby girl & the grandkids. "Love you old man!"

Happy Birthday to my son, Bridgeo Jr., on May 8. With love from Daddy, Cy, Noah, Kyden, Isley, Cera, Grandma, Grandpa, & the rest of the family.

Happy Birthday & Mother's Day to our mom, Sarah Willis, on May 30. With love from your sons, baby girl, grandkids, dad, & the rest of the family.



CONGRATULATIONS! There is a new chapter with a new page in our lives; a new beginning with a new member to welcome & who will make our lives awesome. Ms. Carly Brooke Baker was born to Sonny Baker & Cookie Jim on March 18, 2016. She weighed 7 lbs., 7ozs & 21". Grandparents are Patricia Billie, Lenora Thomas & Vandel Jim. We all love you Ms. Carly Brooke!

Team Wins Tourney

Congratulations to Team Choctaw for going undefeated & placing first in the 16th Annual WNSL March Madness basketball tournament in West Nashville, Tenn., on March 3-6. Team members include, pictured from left, Jayce Sam, Aven Joe, Colen Dixon, Peyton Mingo, Tra Isaac, Tyrece Mingo, Abram Isaac, & Alex Thompson. Not pictured are coaches Dwight Isaac, Maleah Isaac & Brant Isaac. BIG thanks to family & friends who came out & supported the team.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

MAY 2016

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We congratulate Ms. Ashley Billie on her accomplishments at JSU. Although you ran into roadblocks, you stayed on the straight & narrow, didn't give up & overcame obstacles with the Lord's help thru prayers & determination. Not only did you receive your B.S. degree, you also excelled in Home Economics & received Cum Laude honors & we're extremely proud of you. You've accomplished all you could for yourself & your babies, Connor & Nakota. They are very proud of you. In spirit, your grandma & grandpa (the late Raymond & Judie Billie) watched as you crossed the stage to receive your diploma. Know that they are so proud of you. Next stop, Masters! Love ya lots from Connor, Nakota, Mom & Ricky, Auntie Trish, Sonny, Cookie & baby Carly.



Congratulations to Hallie Denson, Choctaw Central High School Class of 2016. We are all proud of you & will continue to watch over you as you continue your education at Mississippi State University. Let's keep the family tradition going, My Bulldog! My heart swells with joy as I know you will do your best at anything you desire. We love you, Mom, Melody, Onna, Grandma Peters, MKay, & all the rest of the family.





CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

JUNE 2016



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

www.choctaw.org

S&P Raises CRDE's Bond Rating

Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, announced on June 10 that Standard and Poor's Ratings Services has upgraded their respective ratings of CRDE's issuer credit rating, senior secured issue rating and senior notes rating as follows:

- CRDE's Issuer Rating upgraded one notch from B+ to BB-
- CRDE's Senior Secured Issue Rating upgraded one notch from B+ to BB-
- CRDE's Senior Notes Rating upgraded two notches from B- to B+

In its report, Standard and Poor's described CRDE's "recently completed property renovations" and "stable outlook" as reasons for the upgrade.

"We are gratified that S&P continues to recognize CRDE's sound financial structure and conservative fiscal management," said Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.

"The fact that S&P has raised our respective issuer and credit issue ratings did not happen by accident. We worked together as an executive team to control spending, reduce operating costs and improve reserves, while making necessary infrastructure improvements and continuing our commitment to our employees and the Tribe."

Supreme Court Deadlocked, Ruling Stands in Favor of Tribe

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) - On June 23, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Dolgen Corp. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* (13-1496) announcing that the Court was equally divided and unable to reach a majority ruling in the case. The result is that the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in favor of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is affirmed.

At issue in the case was whether the Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Court may hear and decide a civil lawsuit brought by Choctaw Tribal members against Dolgencorp, Inc. ("Dollar General"), a corporation which owns and operates the Dollar General retail store located on Choctaw Indian Reservation lands.

In 2005, the Choctaw plaintiffs brought a lawsuit in Choctaw Tribal Court alleging that,

in 2003, the Dollar General store manager at that time sexually molested a minor tribal member who was working at the store through the Tribe's Youth Opportunity Training program.

Dollar General attempted to avoid civil liability by claiming that the Choctaw Tribal Courts do not have civil jurisdiction to hear and decide the claims against Dollar General since it is a non-Indian entity.

The Choctaw Tribal Courts, a Federal district court, and the Fifth Circuit Federal appeals court all ruled against Dollar General on this issue. Since the U.S. Supreme Court was unable to reach a majority ruling in the case, the judgment of the Fifth Circuit is affirmed.

"I am pleased to announce that today the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision, and the result does not deprive the sovereign authority of our Tribal courts to

hear and issue a final ruling in a lawsuit brought by Tribal members seeking to have their day in court," said Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson.

"Even though the Supreme Court was unable to reach a majority decision in our favor, I am grateful the result of

the case nevertheless affirms the sovereign right of Indian tribes to assert civil jurisdiction against a non-Indian entity in certain circumstances. This is a positive outcome, not only for our Tribe, but for all of Indian country."

.....see RULING, pg. 4



Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Chief Phylliss J. Anderson speaks at the Quilt Walk for Justice rally on the grounds of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 7, 2015.

New Press Box Opens at CCHS

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday morning, June 15, for a newly-constructed press box and concession stand, pavilion and bathroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) in Choctaw.

Tribal and school officials, along with dozens of students, got a sneak peek of the facilities after the ceremony as they toured the new press box and received refreshments from the concession area courtesy of the CCHS Athletic Department.

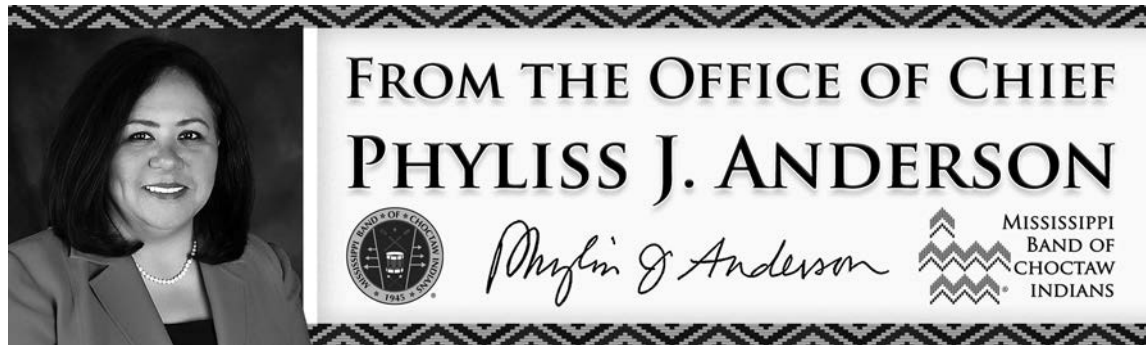
.....see PRESS BOX, pg. 5



From left is the new three-tier press box and concession area, pavilion and restroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School.



Tribal & school officials, along with students, celebrate the opening of the new press box on June 9.



Halito!

After many months of planning and anticipation, the Choctaw Indian Fair is now only days away! I am so excited to see all of our friends, neighbors and new and returning visitors come join us for the Tribe's biggest cultural celebration of the year.

It takes a lot of teamwork and effort to make the Fair a great success. I thank our dedicated fair committee for everything they have done to make this the best Choctaw Indian Fair to date.

To my fellow tribal members, I hope to see many of you out at the fairgrounds, and to our visitors, welcome to our beautiful Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation and to the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair!

Unity Walk 10-Year Anniversary

On Saturday, June 25th, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Unity Walk/Run, hosted by the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP).

This unique annual event blends together the goal of exercise and healthy lifestyles with the Little Brother of War,

stickball.

Stickball teams from across the Reservation begin the walk from their respective practice fields and meet up at the parking lot of the CCHS Baseball Field. From there, all teams make the final portion of the walk together to the Pearl River community amphitheater.

The number of participants has grown from a handful of teams to virtually every team that competes in the World Series Stickball tournament.

I congratulate the SDPI and DPP staff for their dedication in diabetes awareness and prevention and encouraging our Tribal members to pursue healthy lifestyles. Keep up this important work!

Princess Pageant

One of the Fair's most cherished events is the Choctaw Indian Princess Pageant. Held on the opening night of the Fair on Wednesday night, it is a chance for everyone to see Choctaw culture on full display.

Twelve lovely young Choctaw ladies, dressed in beautiful attire, beadwork and other accessories, will vie to be the next Choctaw Indian Princess. I wish each of the contestants best of luck and am proud of



Reigning Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake & Chief Anderson pose during the opening of the new press box at Choctaw Central High School on June 9.

them for their courage and enthusiasm to serve our people as the Tribe's goodwill ambassador.

I would also like to thank the 2015-2016 Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake. She has done a marvelous job throughout this past year, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors. I hope you will all make plans to join us at this year's Princess Pageant.

Stickball

I am excited and ready to see another round of World Series Stickball. The games will begin on Tuesday, July 5th at Warrior Stadium and conclude with the men's championship game on Saturday, July 16th.

Our teams are ready for competition, and each team will no doubt put on their very



Pictured above are championship medals in the men's & women's division for the 2016 Iron Warrior competition at the Choctaw Indian Fair.



Chief Anderson at NCAI Conference

Chief Anderson recently addressed the National Congress of American Indians during the 2016 Mid-Year Conference held in Spokane, WA June 27-30. Chief Anderson met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell & made comments to the general assembly on the recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision in the Dollar General vs. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case.

best efforts to clinch the trophy. I look forward to seeing all of you in the stands during the games.

Fair Competitions

Our Iron Warrior and REZ-RUN competitions are two of the fair's biggest draws. These two events offer fairgoers the opportunity to display their

athletic abilities in front of the crowds that come to watch.

The participants brave the summer heat and intense trials to become the top champion. It's tough, but the competitors love the challenge. I invite you to come out and cheer on our Iron Warriors and our runners.

.....continued next page



New Choctaw Indian Fair Signs

The Philadelphia-Neshoba County Tourism Council recently purchased eight new Choctaw Indian Fair signs to be used each year to promote the fair. Pictured, from left, are Caleb May, Kristen Page, Annette Watkins, and James Robinson. Not pictured is JoAnn Rounsaville.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010
CHOCTAW, MS 39350
TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. WillisCommunications Manager
Kathie HenryCommunications Writer
Taryn CareyCommunications Writer
Darron TubbyCommunications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

State Games

The State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament was held at Warrior Stadium June 15-18, 2016. We had a great turnout from the teams and the fans.

Congratulations to Pearl River on winning the gold medal, as well as to silver medalist Oka Homma and bronze medalist Koni Hata Osi.

The Tribe is a proud sponsor of the State Games, and I congratulate them on their 25th anniversary and wish for many more years of continued success.

Dollar General vs. MBCI Supreme Court Decision

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Supreme Court has released their decision on the Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case.

The Supreme Court decision was equally divided; and while we would have liked a complete victory with a majority vote, the 4-4 decision is still a great win for the Tribe. This victory affirms the judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in our favor and allows our tribal members to seek justice and have their day in tribal court.

The result protects our sovereignty and the authority of our Tribal courts to hear and issue a final ruling in a lawsuit brought by Tribal members seeking to have their day in court.

I am grateful the result of the case affirms the sovereign right of Indian tribes to assert civil jurisdiction against a non-Indian entity in certain circumstances. This is very historic for our Choctaw people and all of Indian Country. I am very thankful for the support and encouragement many of you gave me throughout this process.

Standing Pine Tribal Council Election

In June, a special election was held in the Standing Pine community to fill the unexpired term of the late Tribal Councilman Harrison Ben.

I want to congratulate Mr. Richard Sockey on his election, and I look forward to working with him to continue bringing progress to our Reservation. Councilman-Elect Sockey will be sworn in at the July regular meeting of the Tribal Council.

Pearl River Resort Update

We have many exciting events happening at our Pearl River Resort. Of course, Geyser Falls Water Theme Park has opened full-time for the season, and the Summerland Tour 2016 and the Hot Lava Luau will be sure to please our new and returning guests.

The Summerland Tour was held on Saturday, July 9th and featured great acts such as Sugar Ray, Everclear, Lit, and Sponge. You cannot have a beach bash without a Hawaiian-style luau, so don't miss your chance to have fun at the Hot Lava Luau on Saturday, July 30th.

Our CenterStage concert series is bigger and better than

ever with top-name entertainment and music legends taking the stage at the Silver Star Convention Center. Previous performers from this year's series include The Four Tops, Keith Sweat, Gladys Knight, Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias, and The Commodores.

We are excited to welcome in the coming months Skid Row, Ratt, Scotty McCreery, Big & Rich, Sinbad, Clint Black, and the legendary Willie Nelson.

Bok Homa Casino hosted the King of Twist, Chubby Checker, at its live outdoor concert on Saturday, July 2nd. It was a lovely evening filled with delicious food, wonderful fellowship and great music.

As usual, we celebrated the Fourth of July with a huge fireworks show at the Resort. This is an event that attracts not just Tribal members, but our neighbors from the surrounding cities, towns and communities.

We invite you to come join us at Pearl River Resort and enjoy the fun!

Pearl River Resort Credit Upgrade

I am very pleased to announce on behalf of the Choctaw Resort Enterprise Board of Directors, that Standard and Poor recently upgraded the Pearl River Resort credit rating from B+ to BB-. In the report, Standard and Poor describes the Resort's recently completed property renovation and stable outlook as reasons for the upgrade.

I want to thank the many employees of Pearl River Resort and the management team for their work in controlling spending, reducing expenses, improving customer service and maintaining our beautiful renovated properties.

Our resort is looking better than ever financially and visually. I look forward to a very active summer this year with lots of gamers, guests and families enjoying our many amenities. Great job everyone!

Closing

We may experience very high temperatures in the coming weeks. Please make sure you are taking the proper precautions to ensure your safety during these extremely hot days. Limit any strenuous outdoor activities, and if you must be outside, be sure to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Take several breaks and go indoors to cool off, or find a shaded area if you are unable to go indoors.

Please keep an eye out for our elders, young children, persons with disabilities, household pets and anyone you know who may not have air-conditioning units in their homes.

I hope you will take time to enjoy the many fun summertime activities that are taking place on the Reservation, and I hope to see all of you at the Choctaw Indian Fair!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson
Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

10th Annual Unity Walk/Run

Players representing Choctaw stickball teams participating in this year's World Series Stickball converged in Choctaw on Saturday, June 25 as part of the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) and Diabetes Prevention Program's (DPP) 10th Annual Unity Walk/Run.

The event recognizes and promotes diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as stickball players ran from their respective practice fields to the parking lot of the Choctaw Central High School baseball field.

Once all teams gathered, participants, along with tribal leaders and drummers, walked together in unity to the Pearl River Amphitheater. Attendees were urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management to overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

ABOVE, The Choctaw Veterans Color Guard leads the procession of stickball teams from the CCHS baseball field to the Pearl River Amphitheater. **CENTER,** Tribal drummers bring the teams into the amphitheater. **RIGHT,** Members of the SDPI & DPP were honored for their sponsorship of the event.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary and action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed and submitted to the Policy and Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

SPECIAL CALL
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2016

Resolution CHO 16-058, approving Bianca

York-Crockett of the University of Southern Mississippi to conduct research on “Barriers and Facilitators to Completing Higher Education Programs for Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian Students,” was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 0 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-059, confirming the appointment of Tina Scott as Director of the Department of Health, was ADOPTED 11 YES (R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, B. Steve, & J. Wesley); 2 NO (R. Anderson & L. Parkerson); 2 ABSTAIN (C.

Ben & S. Willis); 1 ABSENT (D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-060, delegating authority to the Tribal Chief to approve a certain settlement agreement, was ADOPTED 15 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-061, approving the 2016-2017 Policy Handbooks for the Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 14 YES (R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis); 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (R. Anderson); 1 ABSENT (D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-062, approving the 2016-2017 School Budget, was ADOPTED 15 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W.

McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-063, affirming the commitment of tribal funds for operation and maintenance of infrastructure constructed in Standing Pine with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through a Community Development Block Grant for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-064, affirming citizen participation and authorizing the Choctaw Housing Authority to apply for funding through a Community Development Block Grant for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages as administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was ADOPTED 14 YES (R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 2 ABSENT (R. Anderson & D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-065, applying for a U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Discretionary Grant Funding for the Youth Conservation Corps Program at Nanih Waiya Mound area

for the Division of Education, Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 13 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, B. Steve, J. Wesley, & S. Willis); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT (K. Edwards, R. Henry & D. Wilson).

Resolution CHO 16-066, applying for U.S. Department of Education Grant funding for the Choctaw Language Annopa Tikbishtiya Program for the Division of Education, Choctaw Tribal Schools, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-067, applying for one-time supplemental funding from the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-068, accepting a supplemental grant increase from the Office of Head Start, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-069, entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Institute for Indian Development, Inc., to apply for and receive a sub grant for the Community Service Employment for Older Americans Program, was ADOPTED 13 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 3 ABSENT.



Serving Choctaw Communities in Mississippi & Tennessee

Choctaw Housing Authority (CHA) is proud to announce the Raise the Roof Project for current CHA Homebuyers. The CHA Board of Commissioners has approved to service eligible CHA Homebuyers that are in need of roof replacement. At this time, services for roof replacements are only extended to Housing Project 2800 (NAHASDA). Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.

Raise the Roof Project Eligibility

- Emergency housing tenants will move to the top of the list.
- Selection for the roofing project will be on a first come/first serve bases according to date applied.
- All recipients' payments must be current on their account (rent and/or work order).
- Recertification must be current and/or updated.
- Must be 80% or below median income. (2016 U.S. Median Family Income Limits listed below).
- Deadline for Application is July 29, 2016.

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
80 %	\$ 36,792	\$ 42,048	\$ 47,304	\$ 52,560	\$ 56,765	\$ 60,970	\$ 65,174	\$ 69,379

REQUIREMENTS:

- No funds will go directly to tenant.
- Paid out CHA Units will not qualify.
- Tenants with less than three (3) months or less to pay off house will not qualify.
- Tenants over income will not qualify.
- Recertification must be conducted with current income to meet qualification.
- Inspection of dwelling must meet the approval of the Executive Director and Development Manager before assistance can be provided.
- Cost will be added to the original price of home or
- Payment Agreement Plan (approved by Collection Manager and Executive Director).
- 2800 (NASASDA) Housing Projects only for 2016 Year.
- Tenant or 18 years old or older must be home during replacement of roof.

Applications can be obtained & submitted to
Brenda Stephens, Project Coordinator, Choctaw Housing Authority,
at 601-656-6617 or email brendas@choctawha.com

RULING continued from page one

MBCI Assistant Attorney General and tribal member Cheryl Hamby said, “Now that the Supreme Court has ruled in this matter, we expect the case to be returned to the Choctaw Trial Court where the case will proceed to the merits in accordance with the Choctaw Civil Rules of Procedure.”

Statement from USET SPF President Brian Patterson

“The USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF) is pleased that today’s (June 23) decision upholds the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians’ inherent sovereign right to jurisdiction in this case. We congratulate the Tribe and look forward to seeing the civil case against Dolgencorp Inc. proceed according to the rules of Choctaw Civil Procedure. It is our hope that the upheld Fifth Circuit decision will be influential on other circuits that may address similar issues.

USET SPF remains focused on protecting the sovereignty of all Tribal Nations, so they may exercise their right to regulate and adjudicate all civil matters that occur in Indian Country. Ultimately, Tribal Nations must have the ability to serve and protect their citizens. The answer is simple: if you are on Tribal land, you are subject to a Tribal Nation’s civil jurisdiction and can be sued in Tribal court.”

USET SPF was founded in 2014 as an affiliate organization to USET and engages in national advocacy and diplomacy in an effort to uphold, protect, and advance Tribal sovereignty on behalf of member Tribal Nations, their citizens, and all of Indian Country.

Halito Dollar Store Opens at Choctaw Town Center

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians celebrated the opening of the newest Tribal member-owned business on the Choctaw Reservation.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Halito Dollar Store on Thursday, June 23 at the Choctaw Town Center in Choctaw. The store is owned and managed by Mark John of Philadelphia.

“It’s a good turn out and hopefully we’ll have more people coming in,” said John. “To me, this means progress. We need more Choctaw-owned businesses coming to this area and hopefully they become a big success.”

John introduced his dollar store team members - Melody Steve, Jessica Hickman, Angela John, TaSheena John, Crystal John, and Kayla John - and thanked tribal officials for all their assistance in making his business opportunity a reality.

Several officials were present as they urged those in attendance to support local businesses.

“I want to thank Mr. John for opening the Halito Dollar Store and encourage all Tribal members and those in surrounding neighborhoods to come and shop here,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. “This is a wonderful thing and we’re very excited about it. We wish Mr. John much success.”

This is not the 50-year-old Tribal entrepreneur’s first business. He opened 16 West

Mini Storage Rental in Choctaw in 2003 and expanded in 2010. Currently, the mini storage building occupancy is at 95 percent and John hopes to have the same great success with Halito Dollar and open store locations in other Tribal communities.

“We have a great relationship with Mr. John for over a decade. He came to our Small Business Development Center back in early 2000’s and wanted to get into the mini-storage business,” said MBCI Office of Economic Development Director John Hendrix.

“In 2003, he borrowed money from the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Fund and built Phase I of the Highway 16 mini-storage. It was a great success as he expanded his operation into Phase II. That business is still going strong.”

John proved he is a capable businessman as he utilized the assistance of the Small Business Development Center by forming a business plan and franchise agreements and securing funding through the Tribe’s Small Business Loan Program.

“It’s a great addition to the town center. It’s a great example of community development and putting people to work. All these transactions you make and buy from him, that money stays with the Choctaw Tax Commission and benefits the Tribe as a whole. We congratulate Mark on this accomplishment and we encourage everybody to support



Pictured, front row from left, are Jessica Hickman, Angela John, Shareese Billy, TaSheena John, Vice-Chief Ronnie Henry, Sr., Choctaw Indian Princess Emily Shoemake, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Aniston Billy, Bogue Chitto Councilwoman Davita McClelland, Tucker Councilwoman Wilma Simpson-McMillan, Melody Steve; back row, Mark John (owner), Crystal John, Tim Moore, DeeSandra Ben, & John Hendrix.

the store and by that you are also supporting the Tribe and the community,” said Hendrix.

John said he started brainstorming for another business

venture about a year ago when he came across a website for Dollar Stores Retail Services, based out of Las Vegas, NV, as they provide support in as-

sisting individuals in owning and operating their own dollar store venture.

.....see **HALITO**, pg. 6

PRESS BOX continued from page one

“We say thanks, especially to the Tribal Council and Chief Phyliss J. Anderson. We are elated. We got more room and we will greatly benefit from this,” said CCHS Athletic Director Walter Wilson.

The new facilities were in operation that evening for the opening round of the State Games of Mississippi stickball tournament, which ran from June 15-18.

The previous press box, which was in service for more than 40 years, housed restrooms with a small concession area. The new three-tier facility, at a total of 1,439 square-feet, houses a spacious concession area and storage space on the bottom level.

The middle level contains five work areas for coaching staffs, public address and media broadcasters and game clock officials.

The top tier features a covered “crow’s nest” with internal wiring for television broadcasts so cables no longer run along the ground.

Constructed apart from the press box is a 740 square-foot restroom facility with re-directed and im-

proved flowing sewer lines.

Connecting the facilities is a 1,330 square-foot covered pavilion that provides shelter for handicapped and elder spectators during sporting events at Warrior Stadium.

Outdated ground mounted transformers and buried high voltage lines for the field lights are now replaced with new low voltage feeders. Low energy consuming LED lighting is used in all areas.

IKBI served as general contractor for the project.

“This is a wonderful example of positive things we can do, not only for our school, but for our community by working together and making it happen,” said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

As a result of increased revenues by the Pearl River Resort and Tribal government, the Tribal Council passed FY16 operating budgets last September which included allocated funding for building renovations, community improvements and new projects to improve services and quality of life for Tribal members.

Anderson announced one of the upcoming projects includes updates and improvements to the CCHS softball

field.

“I think that is something that will be exciting as well, but this is something that is great. We are very excited about it.”

To date, the Tribe has also renovated the Pearl River Community Center (formerly the downstairs facility building), purchased 20 new buses for the Choctaw Tribal Schools and constructed a new bathroom facility adjacent to the Pearl River Amphitheater.

Ongoing projects include a \$1 million Tribal elder roofing project, construction of a multipurpose building in Henning, Tenn., replacement of the Tribal Council meeting hall, construction of a restroom facility at Lake Pushmataha, increased funding for law enforcement, economic development, planning, and other community improvements.

“There are so many things we have to do, and we will get to all of them, but we need to do it with financial management that makes it work for the Tribe,” said Anderson.



Pictured from left are Shareese Billy, owner/operator Mark John & Melody Steve.

Title I PAB Hosts Appreciation Luncheon

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) met May 10 at the Ayipa Café. The appreciation luncheon was enjoyed by the 2016 Choctaw Tribal Schools Parents of the Year, Choctaw Central High School valedictorian and salutatorian, board members, and guests.

Valedictorian Nicholas McMillian and Salutatorian Emilee Thames were honored during the meeting. Nicholas plans to attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire & study Mechanical Engineering. Emilee will attend the University of Alabama-Birmingham this fall where she will pursue a degree in Chemistry. Her dream is to become a pediatrician.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized this year's Choctaw Tribal Schools Parents of the

Year recipients: Diamond Hundley (Bogue Chitto Elementary); Charles & Nancy Tubby (Choctaw Central High School); Robert Martin (Choctaw Central Middle School); Milena Ferris (Conehatta Elementary); Todd & Twyla York (Pearl River Elementary); Vincente & Rhonda Lopez (Red Water Elementary); Ashley Primer (Standing Pine Elementary); & Arita McMillan (Tucker Elementary).

Linda Alex was recognized as the Outstanding Choctaw Educator for May. She has been employed with the Tribe for 37 years, with 27 of those years being spent in education. Linda has served as an administrative assistant for the following programs: CCHS Dormitory, Chapter I & the Division of Schools where she

currently serves as Education Personnel Assistant.

She attended Pearl River Elementary School and graduated from CCHS. She furthered her education at East Central Community College & Meridian Community College. Linda has been married to her husband, Bradley, for 38 years & they are the parents of two

sons, two daughters & eight grandchildren.

The board will meet again in August. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Parents of the Year recipients included, from left, Todd & Twyla York, Diamond Hundley, Robert Martin, Ashley Primer, Milena Ferris, Arita McMillan, and Rhonda & Vincente Lopez. Not pictured are Charles & Nancy Tubby.



Pictured from left are honorees at the PAB meeting, Linda Alex, Outstanding Choctaw Educator, being presented her plaque by PAB Chair Ray Willis, 2015-2016 CCHS Valedictorian Nicholas McMillan, & Salutatorian Emilee Thames.



2015-16 PAB members include, front row from left, Shaundreka Thomas, Crystal Roach, Ray Willis, Darlene Willis, Pandora Sockey; back row, Dianne Johnston, Danita McMillan, Cheryl Willis, Jenny Deon, Denise John, Roseanna Thompson, Chantay Frazier, Sharron Thompson, & Willa Thomas. Not pictured are Andrea Smith, Scottie Wallace, Diana Alex, & Brian Farmer.

HALITO

continued from page five

A majority of shoppers are seeking the best possible value for their budgets as they have migrated from the large grocery chains for everything other than perishable items. Dollar stores sit in prime position to provide great every day items, such as national brand cleaning products, personal grooming items like soap, hair products and many other personal items.

“I think it will be beneficial for people around here because its a dollar store and they don’t have to travel far into town for bargains. People are telling me, ‘I’m glad you put a dollar store here.’ They like the idea of having our own store in Choctaw,” said John.

As a special incentive, John said he will pay the sales tax for Tribal elders 55 and over with a valid Tribal ID.

Snack and food items, balloons, toys, holiday decorations, reading glasses, and other popular ancillary items are also a large factor in the popularity of dollar stores.

“I have another venture in mind, but I’m not saying what it is as of now. This one is a good one and I think it will work well for the Tribe and it will also create jobs. I know a plan, but that’s a big plan,” said John.

“When I think about it, I say it will work. You just have to generate more money to build something like that and that is something I want to do.”

A graduate of Choctaw Central High School, John was also a member of the Mississippi National Guard. After his discharge, he graduated from East Central Community College and attended the University of Southern

Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

With a family to support, he found employment within various Tribal programs and driving a truck across the country for 14 years. John credits discussions with the late Doyle Tubby that initiated his entrepreneurial spirit.

“I was working with Doyle and we always talked about business ideas on the Reservation and how it would be good for Choctaws to own businesses,” said John.

While on the road, John saw mini storage facilities in every part of the country. With his business idea in hand, he went to the economic development office for assistance in making his idea into a reality. Unfortunately, funding was not available at the time.

A few years later, the Choctaw Entrepreneurial Loan Program was es-

tablished as John was ready to go forward with his business idea, although it wasn’t for mini storages, but for a buffet pizza place. The more he researched it, he scrapped the idea and stuck with the storage facility.

Today, he offers a simple advice to those who are seriously considering starting their own business.

“Keep working a full-time job and have good credit. If you have good credit, your not going to have a problem getting a loan. Follow every step and it wont be hard. You’ll get stuff coming at you which will be overwhelming, but just take it one step at a time.”

Halito Dollar Store hours are from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. everyday and 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on holidays.

First Chess Brawl Held at CCHS

There was much excitement, great participation & observation at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) as the first ever Chess Brawl chess tournament was held May 9-11 in the library.

There were 33 participants representing grades 9-12 in the three-day event. Although

Coby Smith & Ricky Anderson seemed to be the heavy favorites going into the tournament, they did not finish as the victors.

Sophomore Kyannah Grant won the Queen Award over all the female participants while freshman Arrow Scott won the King Award.

In the final match, Grant defeated Scott for the 2016 Overall Chess Master title & bragging rights for the year!

This year's chess competition was a big success, inspiring many students to learn the

game & leaving them eager to be more involved next year.

The CCHS Chess Club, sponsored by the Gifted & Talented Program, encourages parents, coaches & teachers to play this challenging brain game with students.

LEFT, *Sophomore Kyannah Grant (left) was the Queen Award recipient & overall 2016 CCHS Chess Master as she defeated King Award recipient freshman Arrow Scott (right) in the final match. She was presented her award by Bobby Smith, CCHS Gifted & Talented Program teacher. The Gifted & Talented Program sponsored the inaugural Chess Brawl.*



CCHS Unified Team Enjoys Day at the Lake

Members of Choctaw Central High School's Unified Basketball Team took time out to enjoy activities and a cookout in their honor at Lake Pushmataha on May 12 in Choctaw.

The team captured gold medals in the 5-on-5 basketball tournament as they represented Region 18 in the 2016 Spring State Games for Special Olympics Mississippi in



Jackson on April 2.

"We're celebrating with our Unified participants as they won state gold for our Choctaw Tribal Schools System. We're here to have fun. We're proud of them," said Coach Amanda Reed.

The team was part of the Special Olympics Project UNIFY,® an education-based project that uses sports and education programs to activate young people to develop school communities where all youth are agents of change – fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

"This was our first year participating in the Special Olympics Unified Sports. Its basically general education and special education students playing together. They became a team and won the gold. That is our goal with the Unified team, to build this kind of relationship between all of our students and build more awareness," said Reed.

For next year's state games, Choctaw Central's Unified teams may expand to compete

in the flag football, volleyball, softball, and basketball tournaments.

Team members included Dorian Ben, Keyshana Beamon, Danta Cotton, Marina Davis, Darrel Mingo, Terrance Thomas, Gunnar Tubby, Allen Sockey, Nick Williams, Keyshawn Willis, Kaitlyn Wilson, & Trevor York. Serving as coach was Amanda Reed. Case Manager Gloria Echols was instrumental in connecting with Mississippi Special Olympics to ensure the project occurred at Choctaw Central.



One of the favorite activities at the lake included a washer toss.



Participates at Health Fair

The Early Intervention Team from the Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Program had a booth at the Choctaw Health Center's Health Fair in the lobby on May 11 in observance of National Hospital Week May 8-13. They handed out brochures & talked with participants about the various programs offered by the Exceptional Education Program. Pictured, from left, are Angie Gordon, Early Intervention Coordinator, & Rhonda Fulton, Early Intervention Teacher.

CC Dancers Perform at Community Law Day

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and Choctaw Legal Defense presented Choctaw Community Law Day, "Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Through Legal Education" on May 19 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Dozens of participants received valuable legal information in workshop sessions pertaining to foreclosure prevention, expungements, used car/warranties, guardianship, power of attorney (wills, health care directives, etc.), child support contempt/distribution, & divorce/custody. Information was also provided by the Children & Family Services and the We Tip/Tribal Victim Recovery Fund. Pictured above, members of the Choctaw Central Social Dancers held a special performance for the attendees during lunch.



2016 CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS

PAGEANT CONTESTANTS



Alanta Anderson
is the 16-year-old daughter of Craig & Daphne Anderson & a member of the Conehatta Community. She will be a junior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Conehatta Development Club.



Kambree Chickaway
is the 19-year-old daughter of LaShannon Ferris & Karady Chickaway & a member of the Conehatta Community. She will be a sophomore at East Central Community College. She is sponsored by the Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.



Kassie Cox
is the 18-year-old daughter of Warren & Chassidy Wilson and Daniel & Renee Cox & a member of the Red Water Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi College. She is sponsored by Choctaw Tribal Schools.



Jasmine Hickman
is the 18-year-old daughter of Joanne Hickman & the late Charlie Hickman & a member of the Bogue Chitto Community. She will attend Mississippi State University this fall. She is sponsored by the Bogue Chitto Development Club.



Breanna Isaac
is the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve & the late Bert Isaac & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi State University. She is sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family.



Tiara Joe
is the 18-year-old daughter of Adam & Patricia Joe & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a freshman this fall at East Central Community College. She is sponsored by the Pearl River Development Club.



Autumn McMillan
is the 17-year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan & Fabien Tubby & a member of the Tucker Community. She will be a freshman this fall at Mississippi State University. She is sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program.



Jayasri Mitch
is the 16-year-old daughter of Ray & Alvina Mitch & a member of the Standing Pine Community. She will be junior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Standing Pine Development Club.



Ga'Yu'Eze Morris
is the 17-year-old daughter of Jackie & Renata Morris & a member of the Bogue Chitto Community. She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Bogue Chitto Stickball Team.



Emily Scobee
is the 17-year-old daughter of Wanda Wilson & Gregory Scobee & a member of the Red Water Community. She will be a senior this fall at Madison Central High School. She is sponsored by the Choctaw Health Center Employees Association.



Bethany Willis
is the 18-year-old daughter of Martha Henry & John Willis, Jr. & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be attending East Central Community College this fall. She is sponsored by the Smith John Justice Complex.



Searra Wilson
is the 17-year-old daughter of Lucretia King & Vincent Wilson & a member of the Pearl River Community. She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School. She is sponsored by the Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

LISTING OF CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESSES

- 1955-1956 Patsy (Sam) Buffington *
1956-1957 Abbie (Gibson) Phillips
1957-1958 Shirley (Chapman) Briscoe
1958-1959 Shirley (York) Kyle
1959-1960 Donna (Farmer) Denson *
1960-1961 Earline Hickman
1961-1962 Annie Ryan (Bell) Billie *
1962-1963 Loretta (Steve) Wilson
1963-1964 Sally Ann (Bell) Bread
1964-1965 Mary Ann (Henry) Mason
1965-1966 Ruth Ann (Farmer) Ferris
1966-1967 Doris Ann Thompson
1967-1968 Lois (Willis) Keats
1968-1969 Susie Mae Henry
1969-1970 Joanne (McMillan) Cleveland *
1970-1971 Rena Jane Morris
1971-1972 Lari York
1972-1973 Ellen Gail (Farmer) Wilson
1973-1974 Linda (Willis) Alex
1974-1975 Patricia (Martin) Gibson
1975-1976 Alma (Willis) Brennen *
1976-1977 Velma (Sam) Henry
1977-1978 Phyliss (John) Anderson
1978-1979 Brenda (Billie) Bernard
1979-1980 Karen Lilly
1980-1981 Dee Ann (Gibson) McCoy
1981-1982 Bernadine (Hickman) Dixon
1982-1983 Anita Jim
1983-1984 Lorian (Denson) Ahshapanek
1984-1985 Marion (Ben) Sockey
1985-1986 Amanda Bell
1986-1987 Iris (Wesley) Navarro
1987-1988 Angela Sue Hundley
1988-1989 Melanie Dianne Benn
1989-1990 Shannon Jeanette Keats
1990-1991 Natasha Louann Willis
1991-1992 Chassidy Georgina (Bell) Wilson
1992-1993 Ashley Allison (Hickman) Billy
1993-1994 Misty Dawn Brescia Dreifuss
1994-1995 Chantell Blanche (Shumake) Bacon
1995-1996 Karla Monique Keats
1996-1997 Summer Raven (Saunders) Cole
1997-1998 Lynn Dena (Allen) Parkerson
1998-1999 Lindsey Timple Gibson
1999-2000 Erica Lenore (Dan) Farve
2000-2001 Latisha Denell Stephens
2001-2002 Shawntye Nicole Vaughn
2002-2003 Cheriena Brooke Ben
2003-2004 Lena Latoya Tucker
2004-2005 Delana Nastassia Willis
2005-2006 Jessica Nichole (Greer) Black
2006-2007 Ahinah Bree Alex
2007-2008 Kristen Dawn Tubby
2008-2009 Tia Faye (Anderson) Grisham
2009-2010 Famie Cheyenne (Willis) Gaseb
2010-2011 Mahlih Rene Vaughn
2011-2012 Kursten Nicole Watkins
2012-2013 Shaye MacKinzie Scott
2013-2014 Lanena Grace John
2014-2015 MeShay LeAnn Jimmie
2015-2016 Emily LeAnn Shoemake

(* - Deceased)

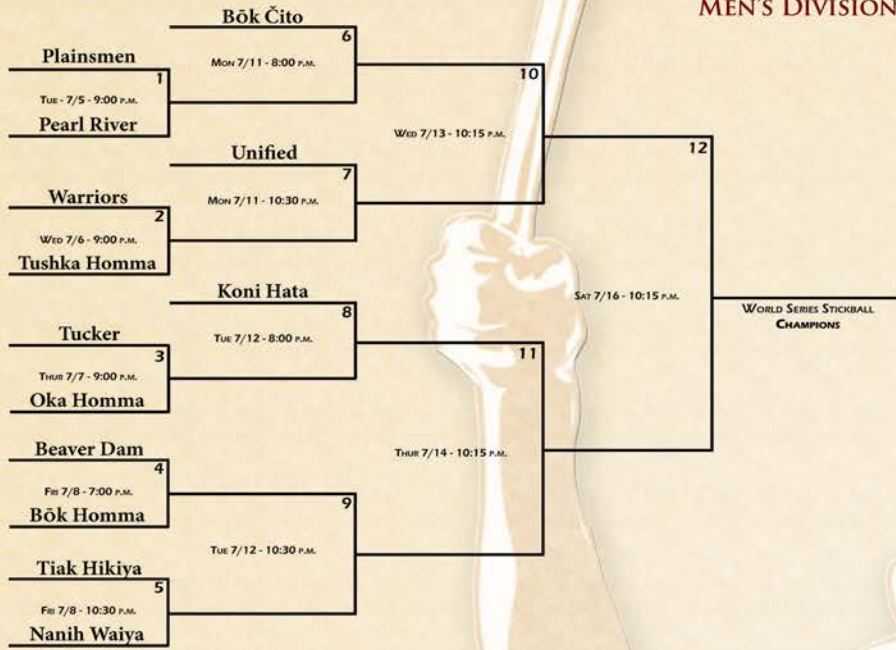
CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS PAGEANT
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13 AT 7:00 P.M. ♦ PEARL RIVER AMPHITHEATER



WSS DIVISION BRACKETS



MEN'S DIVISION



YOUTH - PUSHMATAHA DIVISION (AGES 10-13)



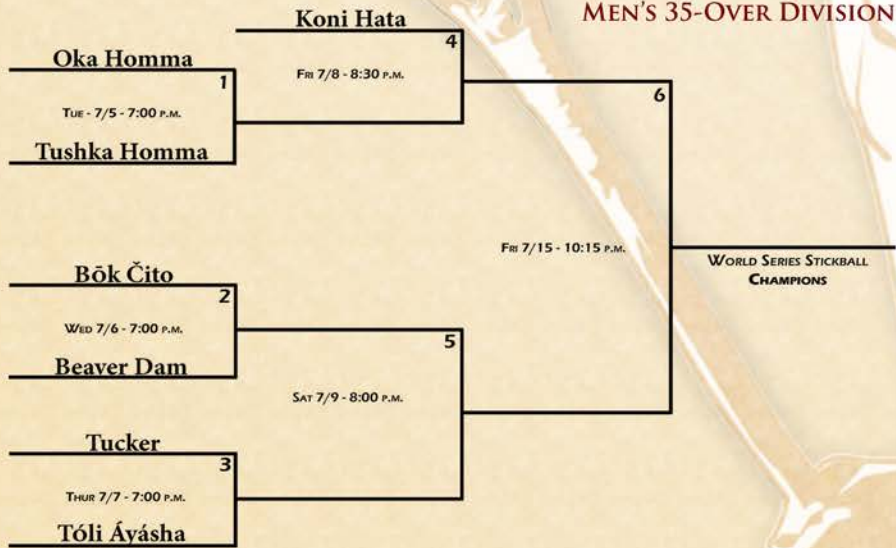
WOMEN'S DIVISION



YOUTH - TULLI OKCHI ISHKO DIVISION (AGES 14-17)



MEN'S 35-OVER DIVISION



Tribal Athletes Honored For Their Play

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians congratulate Tribal members Aspen Wesley, Mahalia Gibson and Hailey Lunderman as they have garnered prestigious post-season softball honors for their play at their respective schools.

Aspen Wesley

Neshoba Central High School freshman pitcher Aspen Wesley was named the 2015-16 Gatorade Mississippi Softball Player of the Year. She is the second Tribal member to receive this honor from Neshoba Central.

The Gatorade State Softball Players of the Year were selected based on athletic production and impact in the 2015-16 season. Each winner also demonstrated high academic achievement and exemplary personal character, including volunteerism, sportsmanship and community leadership.

She led the Rockets to a 27-1 record and a fourth consecutive Class 5A state championship this past season. Wesley did not allow an earned run in eight Class 5A state tournament games, including a pair of shutouts in a two-game finals' sweep of West Harrison.

A three-time Clarion-Ledger First Team All-State selection, Wesley finished with a 24-1 record, posting a 0.23 ERA and amassing 294 strikeouts in 155 innings pitched. She also batted .338 with five extra-base hits and 17 RBI.

She has maintained a B average and is a member of her school's Spanish and Bible clubs. She has also volunteered on behalf of her church and as a youth softball instructor.

"Aspen is a very dedicated and hardworking student-athlete," said Neshoba Central head coach Trae Embry. "She believes in hard work and especially works hard at her pitching. She is a very special talent that loves to compete and loves her teammates."

Wesley was also named The Meridian Star's All-Metro Player of the Year to add to her impressive list of honors.

Mahalia Gibson

East Central Community College softball standout Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg was recognized as a 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar, in the April 21st edition of *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*.

A product of Oak Grove High School and a 2016 ECCC graduate, Gibson was earlier named an NJCAA All Region 23 selection. She batted .402 and had 72 hits, including 18 homeruns and 68 RBI. She was named co-recipient of the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player Award.

The Lady Warriors completed the season with a 44-11 record and advanced to the MACJC State and Region 23 tournaments under head coach Kristin Chaney and assistant Courtney Nunn.

Following her freshman season, she was selected an NJCAA Division II Softball First Team All-American. She also was named to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship All-Tournament Team, NJCAA Region 23 All-Region Team, and Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State.

Each sports scholar must be a non-freshman who competes in an intercollegiate sport, maintains a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.20, and is active in his or her campus or in the community.

Approximately 1,000 male and female students from across the country were nominated.

inated.

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education established the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars Awards "to honor undergraduate students of color who best exemplify academic and athletic achievement. Inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe, Jr.'s commitment to education as well as his love for the game of tennis, U.S. colleges and universities are invited to participate in this annual awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars.

In addition to their athletic ability and academic performance, Arthur Ashe, Jr. Sports Scholars demonstrate a commitment to community service and student leadership."

Gibson will continue her softball career at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA.

Hailey Lunderman

Ole Miss softball freshman shortstop Hailey Lunderman was one of three Ole Miss players named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region Team.

Lunderman was named to the Second Team.

The awards honor softball student-athletes from the Association's 10 regions with first, second team and selections. NFCA member coaches from each respective region voted on the teams, and all the honorees now become eligible for selection to the 2016 NFCA Division I All-American squads.

Lunderman led Ole Miss



Pictured from left are Aspen Wesley, Mahalia Gibson & Hailey Lunderman.

all season with a .372 average, breaking the Rebels' single-season record with 73 hits and 40 runs scored. She also swiped 19 bases contributing to the Rebels' record-breaking total, and was a Top-10 Finalist for the Schutt Sports/NFCA Division I National Freshman of the Year award.

She was the leading freshman hitter in the SEC and has 24 multi-hit games as the only player to start every con-

test this season. She was an All-Freshman SEC selection.

Ole Miss softball's 2016 campaign came to an end in the NCAA Norman Regional as they ended the season with a 41-22 record. They set a new standard for the program with a school record 41 wins, record-tying 11 SEC wins, first NCAA Tournament appearance, first SEC Tournament win, and first win in an NCAA Regional.



Participants of The Longest Walk 5 took a break from their 3,600 mile journey & rested in Choctaw May 16-20.

Longest Walk 5 Makes A Stop in Choctaw

Participants of The Longest Walk 5 made a stop in Choctaw May 16-20 as they took a break from their 3,600 mile journey. The trek, which began on Feb. 13 in La Jolla, CA, will conclude at Washington, D.C. on July 15. The theme, "Calling an End to Drug Abuse and Domestic Violence," calls for guidance on drug related issues causing devastation on Indian Reservations and communities in the U.S.

Along the journey, participants worked with communities to collect information on ways to heal our people and the Earth.

On May 18 & 20, American Indian Movement (AIM) co-founder Dennis Banks and Walk participants facilitated open 12-step meetings at the Choctaw Health Center's Behavioral Health. The meetings serve as a self-help approach to recovery from alcohol, drugs, & other addictions that are challenging lives.

"Because of the extremely high rate of suicides and other drug-related deaths, I am issuing a state of war declaration between AIM and drugs across America. The deaths are at a pandemic stage," stated Banks.

Former FACE Student Receives Diploma

Erin Cantrell enrolled in the FACE (Family and Child Education) Program & received her GED in 2007. She graduated from East Central Community College in May

2016 with an Associates of Science Degree. The FACE staff, friends & family are very proud of her hard work, dedication & accomplishments. Pictured above is former FACE Adult Educator Angie Gordon, left, & Cantrell.



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI

Workshop in Tucker

On May 2, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted a round comb workshop at the Tucker Facility Building. Participants and staff instructors enjoyed the workshop very much. The CAP offers significant resources in an attempt to connect people with the Choctaw culture and to strengthen their knowledge of it.

National Day of Prayer

By proclamation of Gov. Phil Bryant, the 65th Annual Observance of Mississippi Na-

tional Day of Prayer was held on the south steps of the State Capitol in Jackson on May 5.

"Wake Up America" was the theme and the passage selected for the event was from Isaiah 58:1A (NIV), "Shout it aloud, do not hold back, raise your voice like a trumpet."

Pastor Thomas Ben, of the Spirit of Life Christian Center in Choctaw, was one of several religious figures in attendance to offer a prayer. Afterwards, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Traditional Dancers & Drummers

presented a very moving and wonderful performance of the Walk Dance.

Prayers were offered for the government, military, families, churches, media, entertainment, business, and education across the nation. Messianic Rabbi Yosef Lynn Boleware offered a prayer for Israel.

Members of the MBCI delegation included Phyllis McMillan, Trudy Jimmie, Casey Bigpond, Sherrill Nickey, "Speedy" Lewis, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Dan Isaac, Leda Isaac, Demetrius Wil-



The MBCI Traditional Dancers & Drummers pose in front of the Capitol with Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and First Lady Deborah Bryant before their performance.

Expect. Employ. Empower!

Please enjoy the floral decorations throughout the Choctaw Indian Fairgrounds and know that these beautiful decorations were produced by Tribal member workers who experience a disability & participate in the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Horticulture Work Adjustment Training Program. This program trains Tribal member job seekers who experience a disability in good & transferable work habits.



If your business is looking for a proven employee, contact the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program at 601-650-7333 or e-mail mmeruvia@choctaw.org.

liams, Kirk McMillan, Priscilla Williams, and Edna Cotton.

CPR Training

On May 12, the Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff attended a refresher course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first-aid training at the Choctaw Fire Department (CFD) in Choctaw.

CFD Instructor Mitch Shoemake demonstrated techniques and had the staff practice so they will know what to do in real-life medical emergency situations, (e.g. breathing problems, heart attack, fainting, diabetes, strokes, seizures, and signs of shock).

Shoemake explained when and how to apply tourniquets and how to administer first-aid for tooth injuries, blood loss, eye injuries, burns, etc.

He also gave a brief refresher course on how to operate the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

The DCI staff must keep their skills fresh at all times, mainly because of numerous activities they conduct with the general public throughout the year. In the past, minor injuries have sometimes occurred at workshops.

The DCI say "yakoki" to the firefighters, unsung heroes of the CFD, for the dynamic training they provided and, most of all, for their exemplary service.

Medallion Beading Workshop

Several tribal members attended a medallion beading

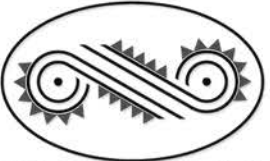
.....see DCI NEWS, pg. 12



ABOVE, Participants & CAP staff members enjoyed the round comb decorating workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 2. RIGHT, Mitch Shoemake of the Choctaw Fire Department shows DCI staff members (background from left) Casey Bigpond & Lorena Alex how to operate an Automated External Defibrillator. The training was held at the Choctaw Fire Department.



Participants & CAP staff members took part in a medallion beading workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 17.



**CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER**

featuring
CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

**CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER**
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION	
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT	\$3
MILITARY DISCOUNT	\$3
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID	\$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE)	FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5)	FREE

DCI NEWS continued from page eleven

workshop at the Tucker Facility Building on May 17. The CAP staff enjoyed sharing their information on how to make a beaded medallion. Mary Winstead, of Fashions and Fabrics in Philadelphia, brought required items for purchase.

Consultants Nancy Vaughn, Shawntye Vaughn, Priscilla Williams, and Sherrill Nickey provided instructions to the participants.

Sash Making Workshop

CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie and Lorena Alex hosted a sash making workshop on May 27 at the Bogue Chitto Facility Building.

Priscilla Williams, Shawntye Vaughn, Nancy Vaughn, and Everett Sam served as workshop consultants as they are experienced and extremely creative and have produced great qualities of beautiful sashes.

The cultural training classes will resume in August. Please keep a close watch on the bulletin for the schedule.

Give us some feedback from our training workshops so we can have an assessment of ways to better serve the communities. Write us at: Cultural Affairs Program, 101 Industrial Road, Choctaw, MS 39350; or call us at 601-663-7506.

Tribal Language Program News

The Tribal Language Program staff has been very busy with planning and conducting material & resource development meetings with the Division of Schools/Choctaw Tribal Schools, Division of Early Childhood Education, Choctaw Language Instructor Certification project and Choctaw Language Curriculum members.

We are developing an online Choctaw language learning game and a visual dictionary. The app, Language Learning Resource

Casey Bigpond, Cultural Revitalization Specialist, conducted the fundamentals of making stickball sticks at the Crystal Ridge Facility Building on May 24. Greg Phillips (left) is cutting the hickory wood for the stickball sticks as Tribal Council Crystal Ridge representative Joseph Wesley (right) closely observes.



Pictured above are some of the sashes from the fabulous collection of Everett Sam.

for Choctaw Learners, is on a trial run for the Youth Opportunity Program and we need feedback before it is published. For more information, call the Tribal Language Program office at 601-663-7603.

We completed a community language class at Tucker Community (Fani Lakna) for spring 2016. Four families (I_choka achaffa álhiha), pictured below, consistently attended the family oriented language class (Chahta Annopa Ábachi).



Updated Measures to Strengthen ICWA

(WASHINGTON) – Acting Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Lawrence S. Roberts announced final, updated measures to protect the rights of Indian children, their parents and their tribes in state child welfare proceedings.

The measures, comprised in a final rule announced on June 8, will support the stability and security of Indian families and tribes by providing a more consistent interpretation of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA), regardless of the child welfare worker, judge or state involved.

"The final rule builds upon the work of tribes and states by clarifying the Indian Child Welfare Act's requirements, promoting consistency in Indian child-placement proceedings, and ensuring that regardless of the state court forum, children and their parents receive the active efforts envisioned by Congress to maintain family and community," said Acting Assistant Secretary Roberts.

"Child welfare workers, state court judges and state agencies deserve clear rules as they work with Native families and tribes to implement the protections of the law. This rule promotes family and community by ensuring that if a Native child has been removed from their home previously, they will have a pathway for reunification with their family."

Congress enacted ICWA to address the separation of Indian children from their families at a disproportionately high rate, as a result of state agency policies and practices that placed the children in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes.

Although ICWA has helped to prevent the wholesale separation of tribal children from their families in many regions

.....continued next page

of the U.S., Native American children are still disproportionately more likely to be removed from their homes and communities than other children. And Indian families continue to be broken up by the removal of their children by nontribal public and private agencies.

Based on 2013 data, Native children nationwide are represented in state foster care at a rate 2.5 times greater than their presence in the general population. In some states, Native American children are represented in state foster-care systems at rates as high as 14.8 times their presence in the general population of that state.

Since the enactment of ICWA, state courts and state agencies have sometimes differed in their interpretations of the law and inconsistently implemented the statute. The final rule clarifies the Act's requirements, often drawing upon approaches already used by states.

Many states have enacted state law versions of ICWA that provide additional protections for tribes and Indian families, and this rule does not add more protective standards, but rather establishes minimum federal standards under ICWA and incorporates best practices in child welfare. The rule also promotes judicial collaboration between tribal courts and state courts in the implementation of ICWA.

"ICWA was designed to safeguard Native children from undue separation from their families and cultural identity. This rule will achieve consistent implementation of a law that remains critical to protecting the best interest of Native children and promoting successful Native communities," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who serves as chair of the President's White House Council on Native American Affairs.

"It is in a child's best interest to keep their family intact when it can be done safely, and provide pathways to connect with the child's larger family and community. This rule reflects the highest standards in child welfare."

Under the rule announced, state courts in foster-care, termination-of-parental-rights, and adoption proceedings will be required to ask whether the child is an "Indian child" under ICWA, and therefore subject to the law's procedures.

Determining this early in the proceeding maximizes the chances of placing the child with extended family and other preferred placements, thus promoting stability for the child and healthy connections with his or her family and tribe. The rule also provides clarity on the requirement that "active efforts" be provided to maintain or reunite the child with his or her family.

The Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence recommended in its November 2014 Report that the Department of the Interior issue regulations to better implement ICWA and promote compliance. The Advisory Committee based its recommendation on hours of testimony regarding the inconsistent application of ICWA's requirements and lack of compliance.

In developing this final rule, the Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs worked closely with the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families, in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Justice to produce a final rule that reflects the expertise of all three agencies.

Further, the Interior Department held listening sessions in which commenters urged strengthening ICWA implementation through codification in a new rule. The final rule follows the March 2015 publication of a proposed rule on which the Bureau of Indian Affairs received more than 2,100 written comments.

As part of its process of collecting input on the proposed rule, Interior held five public hearings and five tribal consultation sessions across the country in April and May 2015, as well as one public hearing and one tribal consultation by teleconference.

"The number of comments

we received on this rule is unprecedented for Indian Affairs," Acting Assistant Secretary Roberts said. "The final rule reflects the input of tribes, states, organizations and individuals that serve children and families and have substantial expertise in child-welfare practices."

The final rule will become effective 180 days after its publication in the Federal Register. Within that time, the Bureau will publish revised guidelines to replace the February 24, 2015 Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings.

The final regulations can be found at <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/IndianChildWelfareAct/index.htm>.

Police Explorers Attend Academy

Congratulations to Police Explorers participants Derrick Mingo, Billy Johnson and Cobi John for completing the week-long Southeastern Law Enforcement Explorer Academy in Biloxi.

The academy, held in June, was attended by 75 cadets from across Mississippi, Florida, Texas, and London, England as they received classroom instruction and physical training. Each day began at 4:00 a.m.

"We work out for an hour then go back to the room and clean up. We came here to learn everything about the police academy," said Derrick Mingo in a television interview. "I'm getting a whole lot out of it. I have learned so much between friendship, brotherhood and not

to give up, no matter how hard things get."

At the conclusion of the academy, a graduation ceremony was held as Mingo and John were recipients of the Fitness Award.

Police Explorers is a career oriented program that gives young people personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition, and other activities. The program also promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, and good citizenship.

The program serves as guidance to law enforcement through experience. The goal is to give the participant experience to either continue pursuing a career in law enforcement or decide that law enforcement is not for them.

The Police Explorer Program is under the leadership of Choctaw Police Department Captain Carl Chickaway. Explorers learn basic police techniques and procedures and learn more about the criminal justice system, youth court system, detention services, and history of the Choctaw Police Department.

◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** ◆

6TH ANNUAL

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
SILVER STAR CONFERENCE ROOM
CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR TO REGISTER,
 VISIT [HTTP://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS](http://MJC.OLEMISS.EDU/SPECIAL-PROJECTS).
E-REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1, 2016.
 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR, CONTACT
 CHIEF JUSTICE KEVIN BRISCOE OR YOUTH COURT JUDGE HOLLY PETERS
 AT 601-650-1658.



Pictured above, from left, are Choctaw Police Captain Danny Chickaway, Derrick Mingo, Billy Johnson & Cobi John.

Weaving Healthy Families Project

Yakoki! We have learned so much from speaking to over 200 people
(about healthy families, overcoming trauma & violence, lowering family conflict & improving the well-being of community members)!

Now, its time to participate in a follow-up survey! Any adult MBCI member can participate! For completing the survey, you can enter into a drawing for one of many \$50 gift cards

- **What you will do:** Tribal community members (ages 18 & above) can complete an online survey, which will take 30 minutes to an hour by following this link: http://tulane.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_3K7P6fPy5dtEe45
- OR, if you prefer, you can **contact Catherine at:** cburnett3@tulane.edu or **504-862-3495**, and she or someone she works with can help you complete the survey (by reading it to you and entering the info for you)



Catherine Burnette is an Assistant Professor at Tulane University and has been honored to work with the Tribal communities for over 5 years.

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Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only

IN MEMORIAM

CHEE JOE SPENCER

Funeral service for Chee Joe Spencer, 72, was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, from the Red Water Facility Building. Deacon Ricky Edwards & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Spencer passed away on June 2 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a respected member of Chicago's American Indian Community. He was an artist

& retail arts business owner for almost 30 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe Ben & Maggie Chee; and brothers, Ben Chee, Joe Chee & Mike Chee.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille Chitto Spencer; daughters, Jo Lynn O'Connell & Sharlyn Bokus; sons, Dave Spencer & Kevin Chee Spencer; sisters, Dorothy Martinez, Rose Shirley, Minnie Chee, & Sadie Randolph; brothers, Frank Chee, Kee Y. Chee & Nelson Chee; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.



202 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, Mississippi

***** Business Hours *****

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Closed Wednesday & Sunday

HALITO DOLLAR STORE

Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, MS

STORE HOURS

Open Daily-
8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Holidays - 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Prevent Elder Abuse



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

**Recognizing the warning signs is the key to
identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.**

For more information on elder abuse,
contact

Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774



INFANT MACKENZIE MARIE ISAAC

Funeral service for Mackenzie Marie Isaac, one day old infant, was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Williamson Isaac & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Simon Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Infant Isaac passed away on June 2 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

She is survived by her parents, Ty Isaac & Dominique Murray; grandparents, Ralph & Penny Starr Isaac, George Brown, Mary Brown & Fredrick Murray; two aunts; two uncles; & a host of family members.

SAMUEL RAY TUBBY

Funeral service for Samuel Ray Tubby, 53, was held on Thursday, June 9, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Deacon Joseph Wesley & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Old Canaan Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was

in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on June 6 at OCH Regional Medical Center in Starkville.

His hobbies included playing basketball, riding his scooter & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Sullivan Mingo Tubby; sisters, Madonna Willis, Myrna Willis & Mary Ann Tubby; a brother, Alfred Lee Tubby; two uncles, two aunts, a niece, & two nephews.

Survivors include two sisters, Ezaline Tubby Polk & Donna Tubby; a brother, Sullivan Tubby, Jr.; an aunt, 12 nieces, two nephews, numerous great-nieces & great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

BENJAMIN TYRONE BEN

Funeral service for Benjamin Tyrone Ben, 29, was held on Monday, June 13, 2016, from the Greenhill Methodist Church in Choctaw. Rev. Daniel Tubby officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ben passed away on June 9 at his residence.

He enjoyed being with family & friends & taking selfies.

Survivors include his mother, Willie Mae Ben; father, James Thomas; sisters; Nellie Meely, Terrell Proctor, Melissa Hughes, Michelle Jim, Juanokiah Thomas, Lisa Lewis, & Roseanna Thomas; brothers, Stew Thomas, Darrell Thomas, Christopher Thomas, Ronnie Thomas, James Thomas, & Patrick Thomas; two aunts; two uncles; & a host of relatives & friends.

PEGGY NELL ANDERSON CHAPMAN

Funeral service for Peggy Nell Anderson Chapman, 61, was held on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens

.....continued next page

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& report your concern to us.**
No one will ask your name,
you will remain anonymous.
Your tip may lead to a
REWARD, up to \$1,000!

Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Chapman passed away on June 7 at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, TX.

She was a certified nurse assistant. She was a Baptist by faith & enjoyed spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev. A.J. & Juanita Charley Anderson; sisters, Ella Nora Johnson, Sara Cox, Merilene Dixon, Melinda Anderson, Eunice Farmer, Melvina Stoliby, Zozaline Johns, & Evelyn Weldy; & brothers, Robert Anderson, Sr., Belvin Anderson & Elvis Anderson.

She is survived by two sons, Dale Wheeler & Steven Thomas; a daughter, Leslie Morgan; six grandchildren; a brother, James Anderson; a half-brother, Jerry Jim; & a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

BERTHA WILLIS TUBBY

Funeral service for Bertha Willis Tubby, 78, was held on Saturday, June 18, 2016, from the Pearl River Baptist Church. Rev. Glenn Myers & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Phillips Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Tubby passed away on June 15 at Rush Specialty Hospital in Meridian.

She was a devout Christian & held several church positions, such as Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent & song leader. She & her husband were house parents for a youth center in the late 70's. She enjoyed listening to Choctaw hymns & being a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Finis Tubby; daughter, Sandra Kay Tubby; parents, Bennett & Eulie John; sister, Frieda John Imburgia; brothers, Roy John, Sr. & Hamilton John; & a grandson.

Survivors include daughters, Darlene Tubby Patrick & Julia Yazzie Tubby; a son, Kevin Tubby; brother, McArthur John; five grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MARY BELL

Funeral service for Mary Bell, 52, was held on Friday, June 24, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Bell passed away on June 20 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a homemaker who enjoyed reading, cooking, doing crossword puzzles, & spending time with her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Royce Bell, Sr.; & a son, Ryan Bell.

Survivors include her mother, Alma Bell; daughters, Ariel Bell & Alma Frazier; sons, Kingsley Bell, Sr., Joel Bell & Elliot Bell; sisters, Debra Bell, Evelyn Bell & Evalene Clemmons; brothers, Royce Bell, Jr. & Curtis Bell; 9 grandchildren; a special companion, Ivan Wilson; an aunt; four uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

THURDREK HUSHUNTI HITHA TUBBY

Funeral service for Thurdrek Hushunti Hitha Tubby, 18, was held on Friday, June 24, 2016, from Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Deacon Joseph Wesley and Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on June 21 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

He enjoyed watching Sesame Street & Spongebob Squarepants & mimicking his favorite character, Elmo.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Leon Tubby, Jerry Clemons, Sr. & Betty Bell Clemons; a great-grandmother, Martha Bell; & an uncle.

Survivors include his mother, Rose Nell Clemons; father, Thurdis Ray Tubby, Sr.; brother, Thurdis Ray Tubby, Jr.; half-sister, Hope Thomas;

a niece, an aunt, two uncles, & a host of relatives.

EMMA LEE WILLIS

Funeral service for Emma Lee Willis, 63, was held on Saturday, June 25, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Rev. Travis Willis officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on June 22 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She received her GED & attended Meridian Junior College & Mississippi State University. She held various jobs until her retirement. She enjoyed doing puzzles & listening to Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Philman & Aline Williams; a son, Aldridge Willis; brothers, Sammy Williams, Henry Williams, Bradley Williams, Jonas Williams, & Dennis Williams; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her daughters, Tracey Waiter & Oneva Willis; sisters, Selma Denson, Ruby Williams, Fannie Willis, Annie Bell, Rose Mary Williams, Joanna Williams, & Wanda Isaac; brothers, Henderson Williams, Darry Williams, Jimmy Williams, & Wayne Williams; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JIMMY RAY WILLIAMS, SR.

Funeral service for Jimmy Ray Williams, Sr., 68, was held on Friday, July 1, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Williams passed away on June 27 at the Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. After his honorable discharge, he later worked on a riverboat, offshore work,

then the Choctaw Police Department as a Detention Officer/Supervisor.

He enjoyed fishing, playing golf, gourd dancing at the Veterans Day Pow Wow, and being with his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Philmon & Aline Williams; sister, Emma Lee Willis; & brothers, Sammy Williams, Henry Williams, Bradley Williams, Jonas Williams, & Dennis Williams.

Survivors include three daughters, Deeda Williams, Fawndra Williams & Monique Williams; one son, Jimmy Williams, Jr.; seven sisters, Ruby Williams, Fannie Willis, Annie Bell, Rose Mary Williams, Joanna Williams, Wanda Isaac, & Selma Denson; three brothers, Darry Williams, Wayne Williams, & Henderson Williams; five grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ERIC SHANE BELL

Funeral service for Eric Shane Bell, 39, was held on Friday, July 1, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Bro. Eddie Johnson

officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on June 26 at his residence.

He was an outstanding baseball player at Ripley (TN) High School. He was a carpenter then worked at the Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed fishing, golfing, relaxing at home, & telling stories with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Larry Frazier & Dean Bell; sisters, Amelia Bell & Lori Frazier; & an uncle.

Survivors include wife, Vonda Bell; daughters, Marisa Hall, Dayrean Bell, Dalmonnia King, & MaCayden Tubby; sons, Skyler Bell & Zaiden Sam; an aunt who raised him, Mae Bell; a sister, Robin T. Bell; brothers, Eric Ketcher, Machiela Bell, Jeremy Bell, & Shawn Shoemake; a grandchild, three nieces, a nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

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Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

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Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-5446
Pastor Thomas Ben**

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

*To the Jews who had believed him,
Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*



A Happy July Birthday to Shelbi Bell. She visited the Pushmataha Monument in Washington, D.C. & won a bronze medal in the 2016 State Games of Mississippi in Archery.

Happy Big Birthday to Shirley Shoemake on June 9. We love you & thanks for always being there for us. From your sisters, Harold Jr., Hilbert, Katie, Derrick Jr., Devon, & Paneshia.

Happy Birthday to Frankie Farmer on July 4, from your wife, Stephania.

Happy Birthday to Karene Jefferson on July 29, from your family & friends.

Happy Birthday to "Sudie Booty." Don't overdo it! Much love from Mary & Derek Thompson.

To my kids Stephanie, Michael, Mikie, Billy Joe, & grandkids - Not a day goes by that I don't think of yall. Yall are grown with kids of your own & I'm proud of yall. I love yall so much. I will keep yall in my prayers. Love, dad (Mike Shaffer)... To my mom, Christine Joe - Happy Mother's Day, even though it's a little late, but everyday is Mother's Day. I will see you soon. Love you mom. From your son, Michael Shaffer.



Happy 11th Birthday to our baby brother who is now taller than us! Love you Will. - Natalie & Kassie



Laila Grace Jones celebrated her 1st birthday on March 30 with family & friends. She is the daughter of Jason & Lanie Jones, sister of Bryson Smith & Ky Jones, & granddaughter of Deborah Henry & Darren Tubby and Sterling & Joan Jones.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNE 2016

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Tribe Takes Part in State Games

Amateur athletes from across the state took part in the 2016 State Games of Mississippi Opening Ceremonies on Friday, June 17 in Meridian. Festivities included the lighting of the State Games cauldron, food, music, & a fireworks show. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/Pearl River Resort is one of several Gold Sponsors for the event.

The Pearl River youth stickball team (ages 9-12) claimed gold medals in the State Games Kabotcha Toli stickball tournament over Oka Homma 3-2 at Choctaw Central High School's Warrior Stadium in Choctaw on June 18.

Oka Homma received silver medals & Koni Hata Osi claimed bronze medals with a 10-0 win over the Warriors in the consolation game.



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Gold Medalists - Pearl River



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Silver Medalists - Oka Homma



2016 State Games Kabotcha Toli Stickball Bronze Medalists - Koni Hata Osi



LEFT, Tribal members Makaylin Alex & Thomas Saunders participated in the parade of athletes. **RIGHT**, Pearl River's Ayden McKinney (center) was named MVP. Congratulating him were Choctaw Recreation Director Jason Grisham (left) & Pearl River coach Jimmy Vaughn.



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

VOL. XLVI, NO. 6

CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

JULY/AUGUST 2016



www.choctaw.org

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Tribe Observes Nanih Waiya Day

Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and guests gathered on the grounds of the Nanih Waiya mound in Winston County on Friday, August 19 to commemorate

the restoration of the mound and cave sites back to the Tribe.

The ceremony, originally slated for Friday, Aug. 12, was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson welcomed all those in attendance to honor Choctaw heritage and celebrate the legacy of the mother mound, Nanih Waiya, which means "leaning hill" in Choctaw.

"For many centuries, the Nanih Waiya mound has been a cherished symbol of our tribe. Generations of our Choctaw

people have visited to honor and pay respect to our ancestors for our legacy as the original in-

habitants of this land," said Anderson.

.....see MOUND, pg. 5



Sockey Sworn-In As Councilman

Richard Sockey was officially sworn-in as Standing Pine representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council during a regular call meeting on Tuesday, July 12 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Sockey won a special election on June 7 to fulfill the unexpired term of the late councilman Harrison Ben who passed away on April 9, 2016. Sockey, pictured left, was administered the oath of office by Secretary-Treasurer Stella York Willis. The term expires in 2019.



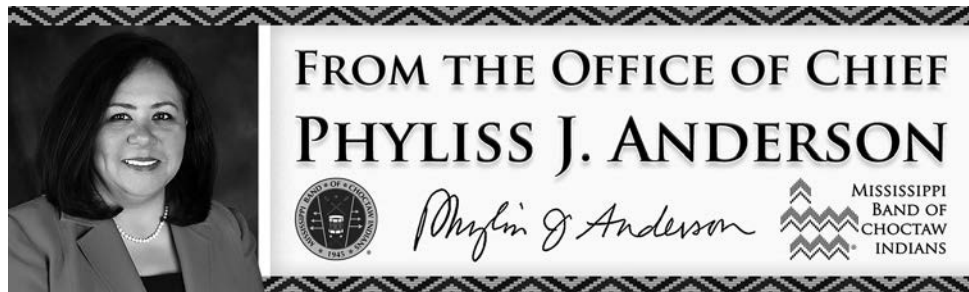
Pictured above, from left, are Choctaw Tribal Council members Troy Chickaway (Conehatta), Sharon Johnson (Red Water), Joseph Wesley (Crystal Ridge), Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac, & Ronnie Henry, Sr. (Bogue Chitto). **BELOW**, Choctaw social dances were performed on the grounds of Nanih Waiya.



New Princess, Stickball Champions Crowned

LEFT, Breanna Isaac, the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve of the Pearl River Community & the late Bert Isaac, was crowned the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess during opening night of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 13. She was sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family. Breanna was crowned by 2015-2016 Princess Emily Shoemake, pictured

left. **CENTER**, Oka Homma Ohoyo (yellow jerseys) won their first World Series Stickball (WSS) women's championship with a 4-2 win over Bok Cito Ohoyo on Friday, July 15. Ashley Tangle was named MVP. **RIGHT**, Pearl River (navy blue jerseys) claimed their first men's championship since 1977 and fourth overall with an exciting 2-1 victory over Koni Hata on Saturday, July 16. Jak Logan was named MVP.



Halito!

As we approach the end of another busy summer, I am very happy to look back on these last few months at some of the great memories that were made.

We celebrated many occasions this summer, including the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair, the Nanih Waiya All-Star stickball game and Nanih Waiya Day Ceremony at the Mound. And as I write this letter, we have recently started a new school year at Choctaw Tribal Schools.

As we prepare for the fall, it's important to remember that we are still experiencing some very hot temperatures. While we enjoy the waning months of summer, please be mindful to keep hydrated and cool. Take precautions and be especially watchful of

our elders and children who are most vulnerable to the heat.

67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair

On July 13-16, 2016, we celebrated our 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. There were a variety of activities scheduled throughout the day and into the night. As usual, our fair included carnival rides, tribal arts and crafts, professional entertainment, traditional food, stickball, and social dancing.

Fairgoers also enjoyed some of our newer fair additions, such as the Iron Warrior competitions, Shawi's Discovery Zone, the Scales, Tails and Teeth Gator show and the Rez Run.

New to this year's fair was a special appearance from Kenny Dobbs, In-

ternational Slam Dunk Champion and member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

I also had the great honor of welcoming many of our special guests and dignitaries to the stage during opening and closing ceremonies.

Many of our winners of various fair competitions were recognized at the stage including our stickball winners Koni Hata in the 35 & Over Division, Oka Homma in the Women's Division, Koni Hata Himitah in the Tulli Okchi Division, and Pearl River in the Pushmataha Division. Later in the night we presented the trophy to our Men's Stickball Division winner, Pearl River.

At the stage, we also recognized our 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Layne Isaac; Community

Booth Winner Standing Pine; Rez Run Winners Joseph Chebet, Meghan Franks, Dustin Mettler, and Ashley Moyer; Got Gospel Singing Challenge Winner Caleb Willis, Scavenger Hunt Winner Callie Amos, and Iron Warrior Winners Dalton Clegg (Men's Division) and Miranda Stamper (Women's Division). Congratulations again to this great group of winners!



Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson attaches colorful ribbons representing the eight Choctaw communities to the memorial wreath which was then placed at the base of the mound.

Every year it seems like our fair gets bigger and better. These successes are only possible through the combined efforts of many of our tribal employees. I want to thank everyone who served on our Choctaw Indian Fair Committee. I know many long hours were put into the planning and implementation of this year's fair and I appreciate each of you.

Nanih Waiya Stickball and Celebration at the Mound

On Tuesday, August 9th, 2016, we enjoyed the 4th Annual Nanih Waiya Stickball game at Warrior Stadium. Some of our best men's and women's players were selected for the teams and battled for the bragging rights of All-Star Champion.

Coaching the teams this year were: Greg

Shoemake for *Fichik Cito*, Randy Jimmie for *Fichik Malata*, Bracey Bell for *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* and Carl Hickman for *Fichik Malata Ohoyo*.

Celebrating the win in the Women's Division was *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* and receiving the Women's MVP award was Nashima Thompson. In the Men's Division, *Fichik Cito* came out on top with Keant-ray Thomas receiving the Men's MVP trophy.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to our organizers for their continued support and work on this successful event.

On August 19th, we also celebrated the ceremony at the Nanih Waiya Mound. We had a great gathering of tribal members and friends at our Mother Mound for the ceremony to pay

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

respect and honor our unique Choctaw heritage.

The program featured remarks, placement of an honor wreath and ribbons, Choctaw social dancing, and a beautiful song presented by Ms. Deidre Tubby. After the ceremony an Indian taco lunch was served while guests enjoyed the sounds of the Southern Pine Drum group.

Overall it was a great day of gathering with our tribal members and neighbors to mark the significance of the mound in our Choctaw journey. Again, I offer my thanks to our Tribal Maintenance and Natural Resources departments for their help in preparing the grounds and tents for attendees and to the Special Projects office, Choctaw Day Training, Public Information and Administrative staff and volunteers for their service.

I look forward to another day at the mound next year and I encourage you to make plans to attend.

Resort and Tribal Meetings

Recently, we have held a number of budget, board and training meetings. It is the time of year again when our program and department directors provide a review of the year and plan for the upcoming fiscal year. We also took time to provide a two-day workshop for tribal program directors and managers to get up-to-date on current MBCI

policies and procedures and to refocus with some great team building and communication exercises.

I believe our meetings have been successful thus far and I look forward to the new Fiscal Year that starts October 1, 2016. Our programs have presented well-organized and thoughtful budgets and goals for the upcoming year that will better serve our growing tribal member population.

As we close out FY16, I believe we have seen a very productive year with several great projects being completed such as new and improved facilities across the reservation. I am very appreciative to all our employees for the work that is taking place each day to improve services.

I challenge all our employees to look around your areas and see what you can do to make your workplace better. Share your thoughts and expectations with your manager and become invested in the success of your program.

New 2016-2017 School Year

In August, we started another school year at Choctaw Tribal Schools and we are excited about our growing student population. Throughout our Choctaw Tribal Schools which encompasses six elementary schools, a middle school and high school, we have 2,165 enrolled students.

We continue to see our classes becoming more adaptive to the current workforce as we prepare our tribal youth for higher education and careers. We are very fortunate to have a great school administrative team and dedicated teachers and staff.

I wish all our students, teachers, staff, administrators, parents and guardians well as new curriculum is being taught and learned in our schools and homes.

Closing

In closing, I want to encourage each of you to continue praying for each other, our tribal leaders, program and department managers, students, teachers, administrators and our Tribe. As we enter a new fiscal year and a new school year we will get very busy in day-to-day tasks. It's important that we support each other and provide help when there are times of need. I also hope you will take time to enjoy the fruits of your labor with family and friends. It is by the Lord's grace that we are blessed with our families, jobs, and homes. I am so grateful to enjoy the freedoms of our great tribe and country and that we can openly worship and praise our God to give thanks for all He has provided.

Many Blessings,



Phyliss J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

Lawsuit Filed By Chief Anderson

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – On June 27, 2016, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Chief Phyliss J. Anderson filed a lawsuit in Choctaw Tribal Court on behalf of the Office of the Chief and on behalf of the Chief of Staff and three Division Directors of MBCI against the MBCI Tribal Council regarding amendments to the Tribe's Administrative Personnel Policies & Procedures (the "Policies") adopted by a majority (9 members) of the council at a regular meeting on April 12, 2016.

The lawsuit alleges that certain amendments to the Policies are in violation of the MBCI Constitution and that an injunction should be issued by the court against enforcement of the challenged amendments to the Policies.

"I was elected by the Choctaw People to lead this Tribe as the Tribal Chief, and I take those responsibilities seriously," said Chief Anderson. "I believe it is my duty to protect the powers and duties of the Office of the Chief under our Constitution and to protect the interests of all Tribal employees who work to provide necessary programs and services for our Tribal members."

Although there were many amendments to the Policies adopted by the Council at the April meeting, the amendments that are being challenged in Court involve a requirement that certain "political appointee" employees who are directly hired and supervised by the Chief to be confirmed by the Tribal Council and, then, for those same employees to be re-confirmed by the Council in four years.

Also being challenged are certain provisions requiring the Chief to provide specific personnel action information to the Council Committee on Human Resources, Training and Development on a quarterly basis.

The lawsuit alleges that these amendments to the Policies violate the MBCI Constitution by unlawfully infringing on the executive authority of the Chief and by bestowing the Council with authority not provided in the Constitution.

"While I respect the constitutional authority of the Tribal Council to establish procedures of the conduct of our Tribe, the exercise of the Council's authority must not unlawfully interfere with the authority of the Tribal Chief to manage, direct, and administer the operations of the Tribal programs and services. That is what this lawsuit is about," said Chief Anderson.



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary and action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must

have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed and submitted to the Policy and Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL MEETING JULY 12, 2016

Resolution CHO 16-070, approving the modification of the term sheet, engagement letter, and fee letter, with Trustmark National Bank, as administrative agent of a proposed replacement facility to \$175,000,000 from \$200,000,000 to be used to refinance the 2014 secured facility and to pay off the 7.25% senior secured notes of the enterprise; and approve the final negotiation and execution, delivery and performance by the Tribe and enterprise of the amended and restated credit agreement and the other documents and certificates necessary to consummate the modified replacement facility, including the notes, security agreement, depository agreements, and springing depository agreements, by and among the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians d/b/a Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise, The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Trustmark National

Bank as administrative agent and the lenders referred to therein; along with other agreements, forms, and certificates related to the amended and restated credit agreement, the limited waivers of sovereign immunity contained therein; and other matters related thereto, was ADOPTED 16 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson*); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (*C. Ben*).

Resolution CHO 16-071, designating Key Bank as a depository of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-072, designating Whitney Bank as a depository of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-073, approving revisions to Choctaw Gaming Commission regulations, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-074, approving an extension request from Dr. Catherine Burnette of Tulane University on "Bolstering Healthy Families Research Project," was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO

16-075, approving Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell and Dr. Bushra Sabri of Johns Hopkins University in collaboration with Dr. Catherine Burnette of Tulane University to conduct the Indigenous Women's Health and Safety - The Danger Assessment (DA) - Circle Project, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-076, revising the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Vehicle Maintenance Policy and to retitle it as the MBCI Vehicle Safety Policy, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-077, approving an affiliation agreement for clinical experience between Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-078, authorizing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Department of Family and Community Services, Elderly Center, to participate in a Nation-Wide Needs Assessment of the Needs of Native Elders conducted by the Administration on Aging, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-079, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and the U.S. Department

...continued next page

NOTICE

HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, and the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, and our office is committed to making sure that all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out the letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We are looking forward to working with and assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you and your family members receive all rights and privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

MOUND continued from page one

In the late 18th century, the Choctaw lost their ancestral homeland due to demands for more lands by the non-Native populations encroaching onto Choctaw territory.

Nine treaties were signed between the Choctaw and the U.S. Government between 1786 and 1830. In the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830, the Choctaw were forced to give up 11 million acres of Mississippi territory, including Nanih Waiya.

The process of returning Nanih Waiya, which was designated a state park, back to the Tribe began in April 2007 as Mississippi Senate Bill 2732 authorized the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to transfer the mound to the Tribe.

In August 2008, Nanih

Waiya was finally in the Tribe's possession. A proclamation was signed that year celebrating the mound's return and declaring that Nanih Waiya would never be sold, traded or negotiated with ever again.

"Through the tireless work of tribal leaders and an important partnership with the state of Mississippi, our mound was finally returned to its rightful owner, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. We celebrate the second Friday in August as Nanih Waiya Day to mark this historic occasion," said Anderson.

Tribal officials rescinded Columbus Day as a holiday to offer the Choctaw people an appropriate time to celebrate the return of lands considered sacred.

"The mound has always been the heart of our Choctaw homeland. I encourage all of you to carry forth the stories, the knowledge and the respect of our mother mound. Pass it to the next generation so they too will gather here in the years to come just as we are today in celebration of our unique Choctaw identity," said Anderson.

Believed to have been built between 100 B.C. and 400 A.D., Nanih Waiya is 25 feet high, 218 feet long and 140 feet wide, suggesting it was originally a platform mound which eroded into the present form.

Anderson, along with Choctaw Tribal Council members in attendance Troy Chickaway, Sharon Johnson, Joseph

Wesley, & Ronnie Henry, Sr., affixed colorful ribbons representing the eight tribal communities to the memorial wreath which was placed at the base of the mound.

An Indian taco lunch was served afterwards.

CHOCTAW CENTRAL CLASS OF 1976 & 1977

40th Year Reunion
Plans Underway!

For more information,
contact Paul Billie at
601-692-6719

News from the Tribal Distribution Office

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. *(All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.)*

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card)
- Address changes - (If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time does have an expiration.)
- Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants.
- We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.
- Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do Direct Deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please contact Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.

of Veterans' Affairs to establish a program of direct loans for Native American veterans living on trust lands, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-080, granting right of way easement to CSpire along Highway 16 West continuing to Recreation Road to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' building on Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-081, approving a Ser-

vice Line Agreement for Southern Light, LLC., to install fiber optic lines to #2 Choctaw Trail in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-082, approving clarifying amendments to the Tribal Council Expense Allowance Policies, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-083, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-084, approving increase in blood degree for previously enrolled members, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-085, approving Tribal enrollments, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 16-086, appointing Richard Sockey as Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources and other committees, was ADOPTED 16 YES, 0 NO, 0 ABSTAIN, 1 ABSENT.

Navajo Education Officials Visit MBCI

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Division of Education hosted a delegation from the Navajo Nation on July 19-20. MBCI Division of Education Director Willa Brantley directed discussion of what MBCI pioneered in order to successfully contract the Choctaw Tribal Schools.

The Navajo Nation is interested in establishing similar funding for their 32 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) operated schools located on their reservation.

The Department of Dine Education is specifically researching various options for a new school system that will provide more avenues to access necessary funds to operate the schools and be solely operated by the Tribe to better serve the educational needs for their children and future generations.

The Navajo education delegation included Dr. Tommy Lewis, Superintendent of Schools; Matthew Tso, Department of Dine Education Legislative Analyst; Dr.

Florinda Jackson, Navajo Nation Dine Education Program Manager; Darrick Franklin, Navajo Nation Department of Dine Education Senior Education Specialist; and Norman M. Begaye, Navajo Nation Councilman.

Doug Weaver, MBCI Office of Finance and Accounting Acting CFO, contributed important historical information such as what steps MBCI took in order to overcome barriers. Also present at the meeting were Sherry



Members of the Navajo Nation's Department of Dine Education met with the MBCI Division of Education to discuss ways to better serve the educational needs for their children.

Tubby, Choctaw Tribal Schools Exceptional Education Coordinator; David Germany, Director of Choctaw Tribal Schools; Fred Hickmon, Choctaw Central High School Principal; Dr. William Brescia, TED Education Planner; and Lucretia Williams, TED Project Coordinator.

This meeting was a positive encounter between MBCI Division of Education and the Navajo Nation Education Committee members resulting in future plans for a secondary visit to follow-up with the MBCI Division of Education staff.

New Staff Members

The MBCI Department of Education welcomes Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & Education Planner Dr. William Brescia to their staff as part of the BIE-funded Tribal Education Department (TED) Grant. Funds from TED focus on enhancing the division's capacity to better coordinate all Choctaw educational programs.

Williams, a Tribal member from the Pueblo of Santa Clara, is of Navajo, Hopi & Hopi-Tewa ancestry. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Indiana University Northwest & has over eight years of experience in various entities of Tribal government, such as housing, human resources, education, hospitality & tourism, economic development, community development, & professional development.

Williams resides in Carthage with her husband, Chris, & their three children - Christopher, Olon & Lavan.

Dr. Brescia returns to the Tribe



*Lucretia Williams,
TED Project
Coordinator*



*William Brescia,
TED Education
Planner*

after several years of work at universities culminating at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as the Instructional Designer for the College of Medicine, where he served for 9 years. He received his PhD from Indiana University in Instructional Systems Technologies with a minor in Higher Education (Philanthropy).

He has extensive experience as a proposal writer, having received support from federal, state & local governments, as well as foundation & corporate funders & as an administrator. He also served as director for projects at MBCI & American Indian-controlled nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Brescia resides in Neshoba County with his wife, Jimmie.

CYCC Members Complete Program

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Fourteen members of the Choctaw Youth Conservation Corps (CYCC) completed a four-week program of conservation work at the Nanih Waiya cave mound on Friday, July 1.

One project participants worked on was a walking trail originally created by the first conservation corps in the 1970s. More work on the trail was done through an Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) grant in the early 2000s.

The CYCC members, all high school students, participated in hands-on

activities in the mornings and natural resources profession oriented classes in the afternoons. Participants also learned about Choctaw culture with the help of the Department of Chahta Immi's Cultural Affairs program.

"The CYCC is an exciting, comprehensive youth work program designed to mold these young students into becoming devoted tribal stewards of our natural resources, while also developing responsible and ethical work habits," said Mitzi Reed,

...continued next page

YLC Held at BCES

The Choctaw Community Planning Coalition (CCPC), in conjunction with the Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI), hosted the 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) June 22-23 at Bogue Chitto Elementary School. This year's theme was "Saving Lives & Building Hope."

A total of 285 kids, ranging in age from 11-18, participated as students traveled from as far as Memphis & Henning, TN, Newton, & Meridian, as well as the Choctaw communities.

This year's conference topics covered:

- Question, Persuade,

& Refer for Suicide Prevention;

- Being Tobacco Free, Bullying (e.g. cyber-bullying & sexting);

- Drugs & the Teen Brain;

- A Motivated & Focused Teen;

- Peers Influencing Decisions;

- Teen Dating Violence, Texting & Driving;

- Resolving Conflict Without Violence.

Topics were chosen by CCPC youth members who also volunteered as YLC peer educators. As peer educators, the youth provided educational presentations to their peers & attendees. They were supported by adult mentors to ensure

the conference functioned as a peer-to-peer led conference.

On day two, students participated in the "Walk for Life" half-mile walk/run to promote suicide prevention & awareness.

Vendors participating in this year's conference included the 4-H Clubs, Choctaw Attorney General's Office (We Tip Hotline), Mississippi State University, Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Choctaw Police Department, & MSPI.

Special thanks the SYSP, Youth Opportunity Program & the Choctaw Youth Conservation Corps for allowing their participants to attend the conference; Generation Free Team, under the sponsorship of Beverly Knox of Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coali-

tion (Noxubee, Neshoba, Kemper Counties); STEP under support of Randy Tangle; emcee Jasmine Hickman, music DJs Daryl Willis & Matthew Bell, Bogue Chitto Elemen-

tary School (Ms. Wright & cafeteria, janitorial staff), Choctaw Tribal Schools (Tony Steve & Fred Hickmon), Choctaw Behavioral Health

.....see YLC, pg. 8



Director of the Choctaw Wildlife and Parks Department. "Activities were geared to promote personal growth, positive attitudes, team unity, self-esteem through personal challenges, and an appreciation of the outdoors."

Reed says the ultimate goal of the Corps is to create tribal leaders that would return to the Choctaw Reservation after pursuing higher education and expand upon existing Tribal programs in natural resources.

"I wanted to do this program because it let

me do something different this summer. I got to do things that I wouldn't have done at home," said CYCC participant Isias Joe. "I wish the program was longer so we could have done more to the trail."

The \$100,000 two-year grant for the CYCC program was funded by the RESTORE Act (created as a result of the offshore oil spill in the Gulf Coast in 2010).



ABOVE LEFT, CYCC participants completed research projects on topics they learned over the four-week program. Diajah York presented her project on the "Iti Hika Losa" Black Gum Tree. **ABOVE RIGHT**, While presenting his project on the Speckled King Snake, Isias Joe used Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Director Mitzi Reed's pet snake 'Speck' to show characteristics of the snake.

BELOW, Pictured, front row from left, are Jim McAdory of MSU Extension Service, Casey Bigpond of Department of Chahta Immi, participants Alice Keats, Alejandra Eaves, Diajah York, Cy McMillian, Xena Willis; middle row, Isias Joe, Jayna Ben, Damien Mesteth; back row, Tyler Thomas, Gatorson Wesley, Benjamin Baccus, Tim Pauls of Choctaw Wildlife & Parks, Hunter Amos, Mitzi Reed of Choctaw Wildlife & Parks, & Bruce Jim. Not pictured are participants Beeman Farmer & Benlynnia Lewis.



DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

Huge Turnout At Round Comb Workshop

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) hosted a round comb workshop on June 6 at the Pearl River Community Dance Ground. The CAP staff was excited at the record number of participants (75) & thank those who made the workshop a success.

Choctaw Culture Showcased at Festival

Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff members, along with several Tribal members, traveled to Childersburg, AL for the DeSoto Caverns Family Fun Park's Native American Festival June 11-12. The dance troupe performed before an estimated 5,000 spectators over the two-day

event. Louise Wallace, Phyllis McMillan, Priscilla Williams, & Emerson Billy also presented Choctaw cultural craft making demonstrations.

Summer Brings Cultural Presentations

The CAP staff participated in several activities in June, such as: traditional cooking for various organizations; Boys & Girls Club workshops; cultural training for Red Water Development Club; Nanih Waiya workshops; workshop for Social Services; & sash making in the Bogue Chitto Community.

DCI Coordinator Rosemary John, Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond & Chahta Alla Youth Council members trav-

eled to Decatur, Union, Dekalb, & Scooba on June 13-14 to provide cultural services for Summer Reading Programs.

Bogue Homa Round Comb Workshop

A Choctaw round comb workshop was held in the Bogue Homa Community on Aug. 1. The activity was hosted by the CAP staff, coordinated by May McGeisey.

Trudy Jimmie, Casey Bigpond, Sherrill Nickey, & Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) intern DeAundre Williams helped participants complete decorations on their combs.

The CAP staff recognizes Facility Building Coordinator Betty Sutton, Tribal Member Services Director Jeremiah Harrison, Community Youth Service Aide Pearlie Thomas, & Recreation Coordinator Aline Thomas for assisting with the venue & making the workshop a success.

The final round comb workshop for the fiscal year was held at the Conehatta Facility Building on Sept. 12. Those who attended received a new, reproduced round comb for free.

Cultural Resources For Fair Goers

At the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair (July 13-16), DCI's Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex, May McGeisey, & Priscilla Williams distributed hundreds of materials containing in-

formation on Choctaw music & dance, arts & crafts & posters written in the Choctaw language promoting Choctaw heritage. Videos on Choctaw traditions were also displayed at the Cultural Education Booth.

DCI SP/MP in Full Swing with Oral History Project

In the fall of 2015, the Special Projects/Media Program (SP/MP) began an oral history documentation effort called the Choctaw Tribal Elders Oral History Project (CTEOHP).

The program was awarded a \$10,000 Cultural Resource Fund (CRF) grant to recruit community elders to

participate in interviews, identify Choctaw cultural and historical material in local libraries and archives, and develop multi-media plans to produce cultural educational material for Choctaw children.

The project team recently shared information about the project at each community development club meetings this past March-May. The presentations proved to be beneficial as few of the clubs entered into partnerships with CTEOHP to help with project activities.

On May 23, SP/MP received news from the Multi Cultural

...continued next page



CAP Education & Outreach Coordinator Trudy Jimmie assisted participants at the round comb workshop in Pearl River.



Attending the festival were Phyllis McMillan, Martina Willis, Torah Shoemake, Priscilla Williams, Sherrill Nickey, Eliza Willis, Louise Wallace, May McGeisey, Sequoia Willis, Casey Bigpond, Treyton Ben, Emerson Billy, Curtis Willis, Jr., Ken Frazier, Adym Bigpond, & Gracie Jefferson.

YLC continued from page seven

(CBH) Department & staff, Bogue Chitto Tribal Council representative Davita McClelland, Choctaw Police Department, chanter Bruce Jim, drummers Christopher "Speedy" Lewis, Speedy Lewis, II & Seth Lewis for leading the walk/run with the drum beats, & all who supervised & chaperoned to ensure this year's conference was a success.

Special thanks also for the donations from the Choctaw Health Center Employee Association, Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Prevention Program (Marquita Wilson-CBH), Geyser Falls Water Park, MBCI Office of Special Projects, Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI, Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter, Dominos (Philadelphia), Canal Place Cinema, & all individuals who donated.

Intermediary Collaborative Action Group that they were awarded an additional \$40,000 from the CRF grant funding agency for a Phase 2 grant for the CTEOHP.

On June 1, the project staff initiated its oral history documentation plans and resource gathering activities.

For their first activity, the CTEOHP group recorded an interview & presentation with Donna Williams of the Bogue Chitto Community. The group, comprised of SP/MP-CTEOHP staff and YOP interns, teamed with May McGeisey of the CAP and Laura Horlings of the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee to record Ms. Williams as she demonstrated the traditional way of hominy corn preparation.



A headband making class was held at the Conehatta Boys & Girls Club Unit on June 28. The CAP staff taught the basics of sewing to the participants (left). Ryleigh Anderson (right) tries on her headband for fitting before sewing on the diamonds.

The CTEOHP staff will continue recording Tribal elders in the communities to capture their experiences & perspectives on Choctaw culture.

Tribal Language Program

The Choctaw Tribal Language Program (CTLP) partnered with

Employment & Training's Supplemental Youth Services Program to offer a Summer Choctaw Language Class (**Toffa Chahta Annopa Ayikhana**) to teens in June. Thirty young people participated and 27 completed the month-long class. Students practiced speaking and writing in Choctaw while completing a Choctaw mini-phrase book.

Peggy Williams, Patty Billie, DeLaura Saunders, and two YOP aides facilitated the classes. Participants also learned more about the Choctaw culture, including making their own necklaces and bracelets.

The YOP requested CTLP to provide four one-hour workshops to new employees during May-July. A total of 158 teens and young adults listened to the importance of valuing the Choctaw language, what they can do to increase their learning, and getting access to an online Choctaw language activity the program is currently working on.

Participants have been



Tribal members participate in a round comb workshop at the Bogue Homa Community Center on Aug. 1.



Trudy Jimmie & Lorena Alex provide resource handouts to visitors.

vocal about the online activity, the need for it and its ease of accessibility. All who have access are encouraged to call the language program with any feedback or suggestions. The program hopes to give communities access to the online activity in the near future as more people have shown interest in it.

Tribal members and visitors joined the CTLP staff at the Shawi Discovery Zone during the 2016 Choctaw Indian Fair to make fun craft

projects representing Choctaw arts.

Participants learned 4-8 Choctaw words and two phrases at the "**Nátaħ Ik Imikshoh**" Language Activity station. Abrianna Tubby immersed participants in Choctaw as she taught four animal and four Choctaw artifact names. Participants took home four cards with the animal and artifact names so they can remember those words and teach their family members.

see DCI NEWS, pg. 10



Priscilla Williams & YOP intern Santana Agurrie conducted a presentation at the Crystal Ridge Community Development Club meeting.



LEFT, Donna Williams demonstrates her skills in preparing hominy corn. **RIGHT**, Priscilla Williams, Ozzie Willis, Jenisa Tubby, & Shane York document the hominy preparation process.



Himittowa alhíha pakósh Toffa Chahta Annopa Ayikhana ittanówah tok.

DCI NEWS continued from page nine

De Saunders provided different medallion coloring pages at the *Omiláyachih* Station to help visitors practice designing medallions. Participants chose what design they wanted to color and even returned to continue coloring different medallions.

The *Hilha Unit Achaka 2016* curriculum was distributed to the Choctaw Tribal

Schools' summer school language teachers for their summer language teaching resource. The language program also provided support to the CTS during the 2016-2017 school year.

Students will continue receiving 30 minutes of Choctaw language instruction to increase usage of the language. Parents and community members are encour-

aged to contribute to their child's learning by asking questions about what they are learning, encourage language teachers, visit family members who speak Choctaw, and most importantly, speak Choctaw more frequently.

The Choctaw Tribal Schools is making great strides in ensuring the continued presence of the Choctaw language for generations to come and we encourage all to help make these classes a success. Yakókih.

These are some of the common Choctaw terms that were introduced & practiced throughout the summer language activities:

ábachih - to practice;
abóha - inside the home, living room;
áhopóni - kitchen;
akmochih - to glue;
alla - child;
anólih - to tell;
anopólih - to talk, speak;
awattah - hunt;
Áyópisa Chito - Choctaw Indian Fair;
binílih - to sit;
Chahta Annopa - Choctaw Language;
chihah - to sit (du.);
chokfi - rabbit;
chokka - home;

habínah - to receive as a gift;
halíto - hello;
himittowa - young people, teenagers (pl.);
holbattoba - picture;
holisso - paper;
holisso áyikhana - school or class;
holisso ittimanopolih - to read;
holisso sokko - book;
icholíh - to write;
ikbih - to make;
ikhanah - to learn;
imah - to give;
ishih - to have;
iti isht nipa - rabbit stick;
kachílih - to cut;
nakni - boy;
nittak - day;
okla áyásha - community;
omiláya - color;
omiláyachih - to color;
osi - small;
ponóshi - thread;
ponóshi sokko - yarn;
shikalla innóchi lobo - medallion;
sita - ribbon;
tahah - to be done, all gone;
tahlih - to be finished;
tanah - to weave;
taposhshik - basket;
tík - girl, female;
lhopollichih - to go thru;
yakókih - thank you.



Chahta Annopa oklah icholíh.



At the *Chokfi Awattah* station, participants used authentic Choctaw-made rabbit sticks (*iti ishnipa*) to target cloth rabbits. Kids threw the *iti ishnipa* at paper mache rabbits filled with surprises. Jason Lewis moved the rabbit to create a more authentic experience as participants threw the sticks.



At the *Sita Tanah* station, Peggy Williams & Patty Billie showed how to weave ribbons to imitate the weaving of cane in creating Choctaw baskets & using yarn to create a faux medallion. They practiced speaking Choctaw & taught words such as *taposhshik* (basket), *shikalla innóchi lobo* (medallion) & colors.



Ná Powa hohchifo ikhanah toká ábachih. Alla alhiha yokómika shikalla innóchi lobo omiláyachih.



CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION
GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT \$5
MILITARY DISCOUNT \$5
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

WSS Stickball All-Star Game Held Aug. 9

A rain delay couldn't hamper the spirit of competition as the 4th Annual All-Star Stickball Games, officially sanctioned by World Series Stickball (WSS), were held on Tuesday, August 9 at Warrior Stadium in Choctaw.

Fichik Malata Ohoyo (Shining Star) defeated *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* (Big Star) 6-3 in the women's game. In the men's contest, *Fichik Cito* defeated *Fichik Malata* 6-2.

Selected as this year's MVP's were Nashima Thompson of *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* (her second consecutive All-Star MVP honor) and Keantray Thomas of *Fichik Cito*.

Coaches were Carl Hickman (*Fichik Malata Ohoyo*), Bracey Bell (*Fichik Cito Ohoyo*), Greg Shoemake (*Fichik Cito*), & Randy Jimmie (*Fichik Malata*).

All-Star participants must be enrolled members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and selected by a nominating committee of qualified WSS officials. Qualifications included player's sportsmanship, skill & demonstrated spirit of the traditional game of Choctaw stickball.

Selected players & coaches must be in good standing with the Choctaw Indian Fair WSS Committee in accordance to rules & regulations with no history of penalties & must have been a registered player or coach on a qualified Choctaw stickball team during the 2016 WSS tournament.

Members of the *Fichik Malata Ohoyo* team included Asha Chickaway, Ashley McMillan, Ashley Wesley, Bethany Johnson, Breanna Vaughn, Brooklyn Bell, Chantay Frazier, Charla Isaac, Chenice Ben, Danita Willis, DeAundre' Williams, Deaundrea Johnson, Day-sianara Lewis, DoriAnne Dixon, Elyse Willis, Elizabeth Robinson, Ella'Gane' Sam, Erica Phillips, Gabrielle Wilson,

Heather Tangle, Hope Solomon, Hope York, Jacobi Berg, Jada Sockey, Jalique Williams, Jamaica Montoya, Jessica Clemmons, Juanita Gibson, Jessica Hickman, Kelley Sockey, Kristen Steve, Kris-

ti Willis, Kyree Alex, Lacey Willis, LaHoma Conrad, Leslie Tubby, Mariah Hickman, Lana Tubby, Mariah Johnson, Marie Wilson, Melissa Thomas, Meritza Henry, Millie Chickaway, Missy Bell, Nashima Thompson, Odessa Martin,

...see ALL-STAR STICKBALL, pg. 12



2016 All-Star Women's Stickball Team - *Fichik Malata Ohoyo*



2016 All-Star Women's Stickball Team - *Fichik Cito Ohoyo*



2016 All-Star Men's Stickball Team - *Fichik Cito*



2016 All-Star Men's Stickball Team - *Fichik Malata*



Fichik Malata Ohoyo Honors - Coach Carl Hickman, pictured left, accepts the Women's All-Star championship award as Nashima Thompson received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.



Fichik Cito Honors - Coach Greg Shoemake, pictured left, accepts the Men's All-Star championship award as Keantray Thomas received the MVP honor. Presenting the awards were Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac & WSS Commissioner Thomas Ben.

WSS Champions Crowned

From the first toss up on July 7 to the finale on July 16, the 2016 World Series Stickball (WSS) brought forth 45 total games of tremendous, exciting stickball action as part of activities of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair.

The following teams were crowned champion of their respective division on July 15 & 16 at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School: Pearl River (mens); Oka Homma Ohoyo (wom-

ens); Bok Cito (men's 35-over); Pearl River (Pushmataha Division, ages 10-13); and Koni Hata Himitah (Tulli Okchi Ishko Division, ages 14-17).

This year, WSS officials made scheduling changes for championship games in four divisions. The youth games were played on Friday afternoon, July 15, rather than Saturday and the women's and men's 35-over title games were played on Friday evening, switching from Tuesday evening.

The men's championship game was held on Saturday evening, July 16, to conclude activities for the Choctaw In-



dian Fair.

Pushmataha Division (10-13) Championship Pearl River 2, Koni Hata Osi 1 (OT)

Pearl River had a chance for redemption after last year's loss in the finals to Bok Cito. This year, Koni Hata Osi was the opponent as

they went into sudden death overtime to determine a champion.

After three scoreless quarters, Koni Hata Osi got on the board with a goal by Chris Lewis, Jr. at the 2:41 mark, but Pearl River answered back 30 seconds later with a goal by Bryce Jimmie.

Nearly four minutes into overtime, William McKinney scored the winning goal for Pearl River for a 2-1 victory.

Gage Wesley was named MVP.

Tulli Okchi Ishko Division (14-17) Championship

see CHAMPS, pg. 17

ALL-STAR STICKBALL continued from page eleven

Randi Williams, Renate Ben, Robin Isaac, Shaneisha Willis, Shanine McMillan, Shanita Morris, Shiela Anderson, Shunna Chapman, Thomasina Lindsey, Tiffany Thomas, Trinesa Isom, & Vanora Sockey.

Members of the *Fichik Cito Ohoyo* team included Alexis York, Ammery Smith, Audrey Jimmie, Beth Frazier, Brandi Alex, Briana Bell, Carlena Clemons, Cenitria Smith, Chancie Anderson, Cindiria Smith, Coby Willis, Chrisanda Jefferson, Crystal Roach, Denielle Phillips, Diana Alex, Emily Shoemake, Jashaunique Steve, Jazzlynn Ben, Jana Chickaway, Johnita Conrad, Joni Bell, Kandice Ben, Karrigan Farve, Kenyetta Barojas, Krista Cotton, Kyana Willis, LaCynthia Dixon, Laka Anderson, LeAndrea Morris, Linda Clemons, Marie Denson, Melina Solomon, Melinda Wallace, Melissa Nickey, Mildred Jimmie, Nandolyn Nickey, Nina Frazier, Oretta Conrad,

Quintinia Williams, Rakisha Anderson, Robin Routh, Sequita Phillips, Serena Stoliby, Shania Farmer, Shanise Steve, Shannon Chandler, Sherina Wesley, Susan Steve, Synetha Tubby, Tamela Solomon, Tamika Tubby, Taren Wallace, Tarica Thomas, Thea Thomas, Vanessa Kaye, & Whitney Wesley.

Members of the *Fichik Cito* team included Alan Edwards, Anfernee Dixon, Antonio Hernandez, Beasley Willis, Jr., Bjoin McMillan, Bracey Bell, Cain Chickaway, Dalton Clegg, Damein Chickaway, Dana Clemons, Darrell Cotton, Dart Willis, Delanovka Dixon, Demetrius Williams, Djon John, Donovan King, Dudley Williams, Eric Billy, Jr., Fabien Anderson, Garrick Stoliby, Geno Mack, Germaine Isom, Gerren Isaac, Henry Dixon, Jr., Jake Chickaway, James Denson, Jamie Wesley, Jamison Johnson, Jamison Williams, Jeremiah Robinson, Jeremy

Chickaway, Jimmy Tangle, Joey Stephens, Joshua Thomas, Justin Willis, Kanyon Jimmie, Keantray Thomas, Kevin Grisham, Lance Thomas, Marco Wickson, Matthew Brescia, Melton Robinson, Michael Briscoe, Michael Lyons, Michael Robinson, Miles Yazzie, Nathaniel Amos, Neal Vaughn, Neimiah Jim, Nicholas Dixon, Ricky Denson, Jr., Rickey Edwards, Jr., Ricky Thompson, Jr., Rockky Isom, Ronnie Reed, Jr., Sammy Clemmons, Jr., Seymour Clemons, Simeon Willis, Tobiah Ben, Travis Bell, Tyler Williamson, Tyrell Anderson, Wade Ben, Wauseka York, Wilburn Williamson, Jr., & William Tubby.

Members of the *Fichik Malata* team included Albert Charlie, Anselm Henry, Benjamin Farve, Bobby Mitch, Braden Sam, Brandon Shoemake, Brent Clemons, Coby Tubby, Curtis Chapman, Dakota Jefferson, David Denson, DeCarlo McMillan, Demando Mingo,

Derek Willis, Derrick Mingo, Jr., Douglas Chapman, Drew Tubby, Dustin John, Dustin Polk, Earl Henry, Edison Jefferson, Elton Shoemake, Ferris Tubby, Frankie Garcia, Gabriel Tubby, Gareth Cauthen, Garrison Edwards, Gaylon Williams, Geronimo Shoemake, Grandale Tubby, Harold Sockey, Jr., Isaiah Mingo, Jamison Wilson, Jemison Solomon, Jr., Jeremy McMillan, Jerrod McMillan, Johnny Bell, Josh Willis, Julian Williams, Justin Bell, Justin Peace Willis, Kinsey Henry, Sr., Lesley Morris, Lionel Bell, Mason Tubby, Michael Morris, Michael Williamson, Mike Buffalomeat, Pierceson Farve, Ramsey King, II, Redhmond Dixon, Rian Willis, Ronnie Henry, Jr., Ryan Carson, Ryland Wesley, Sage York, Satchell Willis, Stephen Wallace, Stuart Nickey, Tatum Morris, Tayshaun Mingo, Teddy Hickman, Trey Lilly, Warren Dixon, & Willard Willis.

Isaac Crowned New Choctaw Indian Princess

Breanna Isaac was crowned the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess during the opening night of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Wednesday, July 13 at the Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw.

Isaac, the 18-year-old daughter of Rebecca Steve & the late Bert Isaac, is the 62nd princess to represent

the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. She was sponsored by the Jackson & Mattie Isaac Family. She was also selected Most Photogenic.

Isaac, of the Pearl River Community, is a 2016 graduate of Choctaw Central High School. This fall, she will be a freshman at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville.

Searra Wilson, the 17 year-old daughter of Lucretia King & Vincent Wilson, was selected First Alternate.

Breanna Isaac is congratulated after being crowned the 62nd Choctaw Indian Princess.



She will be a senior this fall at Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) in Choctaw. Wilson, of the Pearl River Community, was sponsored by the Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

Autumn McMillan, the 17 year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan & Fabien Tubby, was selected Second Alternate. She will be a freshman this fall at MSU in Starkville. McMillan, of the Tucker Community, was sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program.

Kambree Chickaway, the 19-year-old daughter of LaShannon Ferris & Karady Chickaway, was selected Miss Congeniality. She will be a

sophomore this fall at East Central Community College in Decatur. Chickaway, of the Conehatta Community, was sponsored by the Non-Gaming Properties of Pearl River Resort.

Ga'Yu'Eze Morris, the 17-year-old daughter of Jackie & Renata Morris, was the winner of the essay competition. She will be a senior this fall at CCHS. Morris, of the Bogue Chitto Community, was sponsored by the Bok Cito Stickball Team.

The Choctaw Indian Fair began in 1949, but the princess pageant did not become part of the fair until 1955. The first princess, Patsy Sam Buffington of the Tucker Community, was selected at the tender age of 12 & thus beginning a distinguished legacy which continues today.

Each year, a special young lady is inducted into an elite & exclusive circle with the honor & responsibility of representing her Tribe. At the moment the princess is crowned, she becomes not only the ambassador for the Tribe, but also

the person little Choctaw girls want to be when they grow up.

Contestants, between the ages of 16-19, are sponsored by various organizations, such as community development clubs, Tribal businesses & in some instances, families.

A panel next princess by awarding points based on communication skills, poise, evening wear, traditional dress, personality, & cultural understanding.

The Choctaw Indian Princess, in turn, celebrates the Tribe's accomplishments in the forthcoming year as a central figure at the tribal, local, state, & national levels. As ambassador, she represents the Tribe at ribbon cuttings, groundbreaking, conferences, & other events.

With this year's princess, the journey continues, preserving our culture, celebrating our heritage & honoring the princess as a living tradition.



Pictured from left are Kambree Chickaway, Miss Congeniality; Searra Wilson, First Alternate; Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson; Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac; Autumn McMillan, Second Alternate; & Ga'Yu'Eze Morris, Essay Winner.



This year's pageant contestants were, from left, Kassie Cox, Alanta Anderson, Emily Scobee, Jayasri Mitch, Searra Wilson, Bethany Willis, Breanna Isaac, Autumn McMillan, Kambree Chickaway, Jasmine Hickman, Ga'Yu'Eze Morris, & Tiara Joe.



Looking Back





2016 World Series Stickball Champions / MVPs



Men's Division MVP
Jak Logan



Women's Division MVP
Ashley Tangle



Men's 35-Over Division MVP
Jimmy Tangle



Pushmataha Division MVP
Gage Wesley



Tulli Okchi Ishko Division MVP
Yunish Billy

CHAMPS continued from page twelve**Koni Hata Himintah 5, Bok Cito 2**

Much like Pearl River in the previous game, Koni Hata Himintah had a chance to redeem themselves after last year's loss in the final to the Warriors. Standing in their way would be rival Bok Cito.

Bok Cito got on the board first with Brias Bell's goal 4:58 in the first quarter. Koni Hata would comeback with goals by Caleb Williamson and Kashaun Bell for a 2-1 lead.

After a scoreless second quarter, Koni Hata made it a 3-1 lead in the third with Jalen Willis' goal at the 2:04 mark.

Bok Cito cut the lead to one with Kendrick Wesley's goal 7:31 in the fourth. Koni Hata added to their lead with goals by Keenan Mc-Millan (4:04) and Isaiah Billy (3:37) for a 5-2 win.

Yunish Billy was named MVP.

Men's 35-Over Division Championship

Koni Hata 3, Bok Cito 0

With the Koni Hata teams going 1-1 in the youth championships earlier in the day, the Koni Hata men's 35-over team added to the title collection with a 3-0 shutout over reigning champion Bok Cito.

Jeremy Stephens scored first with his goal 5:28 in the first. Lucas Thomas added a goal at the 9:42 mark in the second quarter. Yunnel Willis scored 1:32 in the

third for the 3-0 lead.

Jimmy Tangle was named MVP.

Women's Division Championship
Oka Homma Ohoyo 4, Bok Cito Ohoyo 2

After being shut out in last year's championship game to Bihhi Ayasha, Oka Homma Ohoyo was looking to make sure history did not repeat itself this year against Bok Cito Ohoyo.

Less than 30 seconds into the contest Tiffany Thomas scored for Oka Homma. Stacy Dixon made it a 2-0 lead with her goal at the :54 mark. Evangeline King made it a 3-0 lead with her goal with :01 left in the first.

Oka Homma took a 4-0 lead in the second quarter with Kate Clemmons goal at the 8:52 mark.

After a scoreless third quarter, Bok Cito added two goals in the fourth by Shanita Morris (6:03) and Candace Lasiloo (3:04). Oka Homma held on for a 4-2 victory and their first championship.

Ashley Tangle was named MVP.

During the post-game trophy presentation, Bok Homma was named recipient of the Barry Ben Sportsmanship Award in the women's division.

Men's Division Championship
Pearl River 2, Koni Hata 1

With championships in 1970, 1976 & 1977, Pearl River can claim the 2016 championship as long overdue.

After a scoreless first

quarter, Delanie Hickman put Pearl River on the board with his goal at the 8:05 mark.

Koni Hata, with a record 23 WSS overall titles, tied the game with Jordan Bell's goal 1:34 in the second quarter.

Jamison Gibson scored with 10:39 left in the fourth as Pearl River held on for the 2-1 win and fourth WSS overall championship.

Jak Logan was named MVP.

Tiak Hikiya was named recipient of the Barry Ben Sportsmanship Award in the men's division during the post-game trophy presentation.



REZ RUN Results

The fifth REZ RUN was held on Saturday morning, July 16 in Choctaw as part of the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair activities.

Over 200 avid runners and walkers participated in a 5K, 10K or one mile fun run/walk through the Choctaw Indian Fairgrounds and Choctaw Reservation.

Overall winners in the 5K run were: (female) Ashley Moyer with a time of 23:03; (male) Dustin Mettler with a time of 16:22.

Overall winners in the 10K run were: (female) Meggan Franks with a time of 41:26; (male) Joseph Chebet with a time of 34:27.

Listed below is the order and time of participants in their respective age categories, according to ORION Racing.

5K AGE GROUP RESULTS

Female (Ages 0-14)

1st, Cyrenity Hardy, 24:37; 2nd, Sierra Wallace, 25:43; 3rd, Ahnaya Williams, 28:33; 4th, Leia Phillips, 30:04; 5th, Mataeya Dixon, 30:20; 6th, LilyRose Nodine,

30:59; 7th, Taysia D. Lewis, 33:50; 8th, Kate-lynn Taylor, 47:46; 9th, Teresa Vasquez, 49:26; 10th, Allison Underwood, 52:19; 11th, Mia Alex, 57:42.

Female (Ages 15-19)

1st, Caitlyn Nodine, 24:25; 2nd, Taylor Ben, 25:27; 3rd, Briana Wesley, 27:13; 4th, Trinitiy Redhouse, 28:02; 5th, Alana Billy, 28:26;

see REZ RUN, pg. 18



Newly crowned Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac congratulated REZ RUN male & female overall winners. **LEFT**, 5K winners were Dustin Mettler, left, & Ashley Moyer, right. **RIGHT**, 10K winners were Joseph Chebet, left, & Meggan Franks, right.

REZ RUN continued from page seventeen

6th, Jashaunique Steve, 29:09; 7th, Maleighia Joe, 37:04; 8th, Rose-lynn Vasquez, 49:15; 9th, Whitney Willis, 51:09.

Female (Ages 20-29)

1st, Rakisha Anderson, 28:43; 2nd, Willard Bacon, 28:55; 3rd, Sarah Newell, 29:06; 4th, Allie Dear, 31:01; 5th, Shelby Smith, 31:26; 6th, Athina Merritt, 31:43; 7th, Maleah Isaac, 35:32; 8th, Lacey Jackson, 35:33; 9th, Anna Harper Gowan, 37:48; 10th, Brittany Jenkins,

38:36; 11th, Belinda Cruz, 38:38; 12th, Sonya Willis, 43:00; 13th, Shameka Farmer, 48:58; 14th, Danita Willis, 50:02; 15th, Coby Willis, 52:40; 16th, Casey Stephens, 54:57; 17th, MyLyndie Bell, 54:59; 18th, Audrey Gibson, 56:00; 19th, Jessica Dixon, 1:00:29.

Female (Ages 30-39)

1st, Winter Martinez, 31:38; 2nd, Emily Massey, 31:47; 3rd, Pam Joyner, 31:57; 4th, Gwen Sorrell, 32:11; 5th, Dana

Rush, 34:07; 6th, Amy Eubanks, 35:05; 7th, Roberta Taylor, 35:54; 8th, Teresa Walker, 41:23; 9th, Clymene Bacon, 42:59; 10th, Elyse Willis, 46:39; 11th, Lashisha John, 58:55.

Female (Ages 40-49)

1st, Sharon L. Brown, 31:11; 2nd, Jennifer Reneker, 32:45; 3rd, Deirdre Hill, 38:40; 4th, Tanya Mosher, 42:11; 5th, Jessica Butler, 42:25; 6th, Sherri Tubby, 43:26; 7th, Sherri Ferguson, 45:12; 8th, Angie Alex, 49:15; 9th, Michelle Graham, 50:14; 10th, Alicia Wesley, 52:08; 11th, Tanya Underwood, 52:21; 12th, Stephanie Allen, 54:17; 13th, Lou Alex, 57:44.

Female (Ages 50-59)

1st, Sue Ellen Smith, 34:37; 2nd, Ruthie Bell, 36:43; 3rd, Betty Eaves, 39:03; 4th, Deb-

bie Pickle, 42:47; 5th, Paula Miller, 44:01; 6th, Betty Dodd, 44:07; 7th, Joanne Thompson, 44:52; 8th, Fannie Willis, 46:43; 9th, Nancy M. Vaughn, 54:17; 10th, Cathy Lindsey, 54:35; 11th, Sharon Gibson, 55:58.

Female (Ages 60-97)

1st, Teresa Byars, 47:51; 2nd, Josephine Morris, 56:40.

Male (Ages 0-14)

1st, Byan Henry, 20:56; 2nd, Eli Joe, 24:21; 3rd, Nashoba Redhouse, 26:47; 4th, Nicolas Barragan, 26:53; 5th, Kearson Grisham, 41:06; 6th, Isaiah Rivera, 41:53; 7th, Dregen Denson, 46:42; 8th, Anakin R. York, 47:37.

Male (Ages 15-19)

1st, Cody Stevens, 19:12; 2nd, Taylor Cotton, 19:14; 3rd, Immanuel Jimmie, 21:19; 4th,

Rey Barragan, 21:50; 5th, Tyler Bell, 25:44; 6th, Hunter Ketteringham, 26:21; 7th, Keyshaun Nickey, 27:55; 8th, Levi Brown, 33:52; 9th, Bradley Tubby, 38:33.

Male (Ages 20-29)

1st, William Kazery, 16:45; 2nd, Matthew Pham, 25:08; 3rd, Thomas Tubby, 26:31; 4th, Austin Newell, 27:56; 5th, Will Myers, 30:40; 6th, Quintan Billie, 31:54; 7th, Jordan Thompson, 32:35; 8th, Peyton Williamson, 36:04; 9th, Jayson Wallace, 36:35; 10th, Vik Morris, 45:12; 11th, Damian Savage, 48:56; 12th, Jason Murray, 54:49.

Male (Ages 30-39)

1st, Rob Stamp-er, 22:29; 2nd, Jay Etheridge, 26:54; 3rd,

...continued next page

Iron Warrior Winners

Dalton Clegg and Miranda Stamper captured top honors in the third Iron Warrior competition during the 67th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair on Saturday, July 16. Clegg placed first in the men's final with a time of 3:05:20. Stamper won her second consecutive women's title with a time of 2:10:53.

There were eight events for the men while the women competed in seven. Events included tire deadlifts, atlas stones, farmer's carry, sandbag medley, keg carry, yoke carry, tire flip, and a truck pull (female participants pulled a RTV utility vehicle).

Giovanni Dale placed second in the men's division with a time of 3:12:33 and Lefus Tubby, Jr. was third with a time of 3:28:16.

Maleah Isaac was second in the women's division with a time of 2:39:89 and Christin Meely third with a time of 3:06:13.



Pictured from left are Christin Meely, Maleah Isaac, Miranda Stamper, Lefus Tubby, Jr., Giovanni Dale, & Dalton Clegg.

Standing Pine Wins Booth Competition

Standing Pine Development Club placed first in the community booth competition on Tuesday, July 12. Bogue Chitto Development Club placed second, followed by Tucker Development Club third, Red Water Development Club fourth, Crystal Ridge Development Club fifth, Pearl River Development Club sixth, & Conehatta Development



Club seventh.

The competition is part of the cultural booth exhibition as development clubs in each of the Choctaw tribal communities participate. Clubs

design their exhibit to highlight community progress & accomplishments of their community members. This year's theme was "The Choctaw Spirit Lives On."

Andrew Dellapenna, 30:34; 4th, Murray Col-lum, 31:56; 5th, Steven Flemming, 32:59; 6th, Michael Redhouse, 33:39; 7th, A. Momit Abi Bell, 34:11; 8th, Drew Taylor, 35:46; 9th, Jonathan Denson, 43:39; 10th, Todd Stephens, 45:18; 11th, Curtis Wil-lis, Jr., 47:05; 12th, Kyle Massey, 49:45.

Male (Ages 40-49)

1st, Ronald Barham, 21:50; 2nd, Cal Hor-lings, 26:43; 3rd, Lee Patterson, 38:08; 4th, Ed Hill, 38:56; 5th, Brian Willis, 40:11; 6th, Charles Mosher, 43:19; 7th, Raymond Reyn-olds, 1:07:21.

Male (Ages 50-59)

1st, Lee Smith, 26:57; 2nd, Franklin Taylor, 27:24; 3rd, Kj Pou, 30:26; 4th, Steve Smith, 30:51; 5th, Antho-ny DeLee, 32:05; 6th, Adolph Vivians, 34:06; 7th, Leonard H. Jimmie, 34:57; 8th, Phil Pick-le, 42:48; 9th, Rodney Lindsey, 54:36; 10th, Walter Willis, 1:10:32.

Male (Ages 60-97)

1st, Daniel Mittan, 35:04; 2nd, Matt Wes-son, 37:19; 3rd, How-ard Tucker, 45:33; 4th, Ricky Metcalf, 47:33.

10K AGE GROUP RESULTS

Female (Ages 0-14)

1st, Lucy Hardy, 50:22; 2nd, Taelor York, 1:07:10.

Female (Ages 15-19)

1st, Leilani Wesley, 1:07:10.

Female (Ages 20-29)

1st, Denise Powell, 52:07; 2nd, Leah Tol-ber, 1:20:53.

Female (Ages 30-39)

1st, Judy Simon, 51:35; 2nd, Carrie Mill-er, 55:53; 3rd, Andrew Linne, 59:31; 4th, Shan-non Morrow, 1:03:27; 5th, Crystal Roach, 1:06:47; 6th, Dj Vaughn, 1:22:43.

Female (Ages 40-49)

1st, Lorian Ahshap-ane, 1:12:24; 2nd, Jay

Wesley, 1:16:26.

Female (Ages 50-59)

1st, Glenda Lammers, 1:11:58; 2nd, Scotti Briscoe, 1:16:36.

Female (Ages 60-97)

1st, Cheryl Denson, 1:23:36.

Male (Ages 0-14)

1st, Alonso Henry, 48:46; 2nd, Kashton Grisham, 1:07:11.

Male (Ages 15-19)

1st, Preston Breazeale, 42:29; 2nd, Forrest Bil-ly, 56:06.

Male (Ages 20-29)

1st, Keith Rikken, 53:22; 2nd, LaTora Car-penter, 1:15:42; 3rd, Tia Grisham, 1:16:40.

Male (Ages 30-39)

1st, Stephen Ev-

ans, 58:01; 2nd, Jason Grisham, 1:00:57; 3rd, Bj Morrow, 1:05:41; 4th, Kendall Grisham, 1:05:59.

Male (Ages 40-49)

1st, John Miller, 53:48; 2nd, Nathaniel Smith, 1:03:19; 3rd, Michael Thompson, 1:04:05; 4th, Ryan R. York, 1:30:01; 5th, Brenda Bell, 1:34:32.

Male (Ages 50-59)

1st, Douglas Weav-er, 57:13; 2nd, John Massey, 1:04:32; 3rd, Kim Wilson, 1:27:29.

Male (Ages 60-97)

1st, Steve Murray, 1:06:58; 2nd, Herbert Miller, 1:25:01.

Choctaw Indian Fair Exhibitors Premiums Awarded

following participants who placed and received cash awards for their en-tries at the 67th Annual Choctaw In-dian Fair.

ADULT DIVISION

Gina Bell, \$119; Jared Jim, \$103; Peggy Da-vis, \$78; Kaylan Gibson, \$71; Deloris Bell, \$57; Mage-line Truss, \$56; Helena Sanchez, \$37; Miriam Edwards, \$34; Junie Cabara, \$30; Reba Jim, \$25.75; Fannie Peoples, \$24.75; Josephine Mor-ris, \$24; Dora Nickey, \$23.25; Rosie York, \$22; Kathleen Thomas, \$20;

Teresa Chickaway, \$15; Mitzi Reed, \$14; Kevin Edwards, \$12;

Michelle Jim, \$14; Dar-ry Hickman, \$10; Da-vita McClelland, \$10; Emerson Billy, \$10; Laura Lewis, \$9; Nora Chapman, \$8; Grandale Tubby, \$8; Sherri Isaac, \$8; Brenda Bell, \$7.25; Krystal Robinson, \$5; Una Denson, \$4; Jacob Taylor, \$3.50; & Nannie Mitch, \$3.

YOUTH DIVISION

Leilani Wesley, \$159; Isley Mingo, \$104.25; Gabriella Farmer, \$98; Amiya Billy, \$79.25; Bryceton McMillan, \$70.50; Nickolas Farm-er, \$66.50; Alyssa Farm-er, \$66; Astin Eades, \$64.50; Sequoia Wil-lis, \$47.25; Iley Eades, \$46.50; Zachary Farm-er, \$45; Jabastian Ben, \$39; Brylee Willis, \$38.50; Nataysia Willis, \$36.50; Kollier Thomas,

\$35.75; Tracell King, \$31; Toriah Shoemake, \$30; Teanna Thomas, \$28; Suwanie Willis, \$27; Easton Turner, \$26.50; Eliza Willis, \$24; Kayden McMillan, \$23.50; Martina Willis, \$19;

Tazanna Thomas, \$18; Leslie Morris, \$16; Lac-ie Morris, \$14.25; Ma-teo Morris, \$12; Beverly

see EXHIBITS, pg. 20



EXHIBITS continued from page nineteen



Billy, \$11.50; Tazzden Thomas, \$10; Zay Faith Shoemake, \$10; Rosa Shoemake, \$10; Brooklyn Dixon, \$9; Amari Smith, \$9; Delayna Steve, \$9; Dakirin Wilson, \$9; Malicah Thomas, \$8; Xavier Sam, \$8; Daron Shoemake, \$8; Beyonce Smith, \$7.50; Jillian Thomas, \$6; Morgan Monroe, \$6; Kristeena Thomas, \$6; Hailey Briscoe, \$6; Delaiah Billy, \$6; Andrew Cotton, \$6; Colt Wilson, \$6;

Paige Lopez, \$5; Elias Isaac, \$5; Kaden Bell, \$5; Scarlett Nickey, \$4; Ashton Westmore, \$4; Jase Johnson, \$4; Jai-zianna Ben, \$4; Madison Charlie, \$4; Bryant Henry, Jr., \$4; Jayceous Amos, \$4; Rickie Shoemake, \$4; Tamaran Thomas, \$4; Daylon Perkins, \$4; Mattison Bell, \$4; Chaston Johnson, \$4; Tori Isaac, \$4; Brennan Henry, \$4; Kabreana Lewis, \$4; Jamal Isaac, \$4; Jaxston Tubby, \$4; Eric Martin, Jr., \$4; Brighton Jimmie, \$3.50; Hannah Charlie, \$3.50;

Adrian Frazier, \$3.50; Allison McMillan, \$3; Deelaynie McMillan, \$3; Ladianian King, \$3; Peyton Hernandez, \$3; Alleiyah Butler, \$3; Emjae Willis, \$3; Silvio Morales, \$3; Sanjaya Chickaway, \$3; Ale-

ron Lewis, \$3; Anarea Hernandez, \$3; Zandler Ben, \$3; Cameron Rodriguez, \$3; Tryeston Thompson, \$3; Cara Jones, \$3; Daybron Joe, \$3; Brydon Wesley, \$3; Camden Rodriguez, \$3; Belinda Frazier, \$3; Jocelyn Bell, \$3; Kalveniena Clemons, \$3; Hunter Farve, \$3; Chloe Thompson, \$2.50; Caiplynn Hickman, \$2.50.

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Jocelyn Wesley, \$185; Jaeden Wesley, \$141.25; Tiak Willis, \$134.75; Skyler Comans,

\$131.50; Tayjah Wilson, \$116.25; Melanie Willis, \$105.50; Jalen Willis, \$105.50; Deshaylee Tubby, \$96.75; Gaylon Willis, Jr., \$96.50; Chloe Wesley, \$90.25; Xhaiden Dixon, \$64; Zavian Tubby, \$59.50; Katelyn Taylor, \$58.75; Ariela Jefferson, \$57.40; Kaisen Dixon, \$57.25; Alessondra Jefferson, \$50; Miles Taylor, \$40.50; CiJi Vaughn, \$26; Kaegen Henry, \$24; Nalani Thompson, \$19.25; Nikitta P. Wallace, \$17.25; Summer Allen, \$16.50; Nyshea Hoskins, \$15.50; Jamie McCarty, \$14.50;

Camryn Vivians, \$14;

Natasha Cotton, \$14; Amria Tubby, \$12; Jalia Cotton, \$11.50; Tomechi Bell, \$11.50; Pernilla Arivzu, \$10.50; Julius Billy, Jr., \$10.50; Gannon Vaughn, \$10; Evain Frazier, \$8; Selena Phillips, \$7.50; Quintin R. Willis, \$7.50; Tyvick Cotton, \$7.50;

Jeremy Davis, \$7; Tushka Willis, \$6.50; Jaykwon Miller, \$6.50; Jariel Cotton, \$6.50; Sis-sie Gibson, \$6; Chaisen Jimmie, \$6; Lacie Willis, \$6; Tayeasha Cotton, \$5.50; Devree Farve, \$5.50; Daebrean Wallace, \$4; Rikkiaya Miller, \$4; LeDarrius Frazier, \$2.50; Laylee

Wishork, \$2.50; & Jali-cia McMillan, \$2.50.

Duck Box Donated to Wetlands Discovery

Jocelyn Wesley, daughter of Jay & Danielle Wesley of the Standing Pine Community, donated a duck box she built as part of a 4-H wildlife project. The duck box will be installed at the Wetlands Discovery Outdoor Learning site in Conehatta.

Jocelyn entered the duck box in the 2016 Choctaw Indian Fair's 4-H Youth Development exhibit and placed first. She is a member of the Standing Pine 4-H Club.

Many 4-H Club members are willing to assist others and learn more about the earth and wildlife.

"Community pride is important. By making this donation, the duck box will give a home to some wildlife and will assist students and teachers with a learning tool when they come and visit the Outdoor Learning Center," said

...continued next page

Building Leaders for Tomorrow

MBCI 4-H Youth Development

SEPTEMBER 2016 SCHEDULE 4-H ENROLLMENT

2016-2017 4-H Enrollment

For the month of September, the 4-H Registration Drive will be underway for the 2016-2017 re-enrollment & also to accept new members.

Children between the ages of 8-18 & adult (volunteer) interested in joining 4-H Club may register at their respective community.

The 4-H staff will be at each facility building as scheduled.

Location	Date	Time
Bogue Homa	September 5, 2016	4:30-6:00 p.m.
Bogue Chitto	September 20, 2016	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Crystal Ridge	September 8, 2016	5:00-6:00 p.m.
Conehatta	September 19, 2016	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Pearl River	September 19, 2016	5:00-7:00 p.m. (Natural Resources Building/4-H Office)
Red Water	September 26, 2016	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Standing Pine	September 12, 2016	5:00-7:00 p.m.
Tucker	September 26, 2016	6:00-7:30 p.m.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning Leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

For more information contact the 4-H Office at Natural Resources - Telephone: 601.656.2070

Staff: Virginia W-Willis, 4-H Program Coordinator
vwillis@choctaw.org
Ronald Gibson, Program Assistant
Ronald.Gibson@choctaw.org

NAYO softball, baseball tourney winners

Congratulations to the following teams who won or placed runner-up in their respective division in the 2016 Native American Youth Organization Baseball/Softball tournaments on July 21-23. The tournaments were held at Northside Park in Philadelphia & on the campus of Choctaw Central High School in Choctaw. (More team pics next page).



8-U Girls Coach Pitch Champion - Lady Tigers



**8-U Girls Coach Pitch Runner-Up
Mississippi Sparks**



8-U Boys Coach Pitch Champion - Code Red



8-U Boys Coach Pitch Runner-Up - Yankees



10-U Girls Fast Pitch Softball Champion - Elite



**10-U Girls Fast Pitch Softball Runner-Up
Intensity**



10-U Boys Baseball Champion - Choctaw Storm



10-U Boys Baseball Runner-Up - Poarch Creek



**12-U Girls Fast Pitch Softball Champion
Lady Indians**



**12-U Girls Fast Pitch Softball Runner-Up
Poarch Creek**



12-U Boys Baseball Champion - 7 Clans



12-U Boys Baseball Runner-Up - Choctaw Reds



Jocelyn Wesley proudly holds the duck box she built for her 4-H wildlife project. This past year was Jocelyn's first year in the 4-H Club.

Timothy Oakes of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Environmental education is needed to assist us towards protecting and serving as good stewards of tribal natural resources."

Avoid Impulse Buying

*Submitted by
Susan Cosgrove, Area
Extension Agent, Family
Resource Management*

"It seemed like a good idea at the time." Have you heard those words before, or perhaps spoken them yourself? A family went into a warehouse shopping club to get groceries & came out

with electronics costing \$5,000. And they did not even get half of what they went to buy in the first place.

This happens at so many places we shop on a regular basis. Impulse buying is a budget breaker. Even at regular grocery stores, over half of all purchases are unplanned, impulse purchases,

according to a joint study by faculty at the University of California & the University of Wisconsin.

In a recent survey by CreditCards.com, 77 percent of respondents confessed to making an impulse purchase within the past three months. Twenty percent admitted to making an impulse purchase in excess of \$1,000.

Why do we do this?

The same survey says that excitement, boredom, sadness, anger, & intoxication are factors of impulse buying. But that does not speak to what is happening inside our brain when we make unplanned purchases.

Psychologists say that this impulsive buying behavior makes us feel good, it is like an act of empowerment. The exact feeling varies from person to person. The

problem comes later when reality sets in & the satisfaction is short-lived.

Making occasional impulse purchases are not the end of the world. We all buy things we know we shouldn't from time to time. When these things happen on a regular basis or they impact our ability to meet our financial obligations, then we need to take action.

How do we take control of our impulse shopping behavior?

Step 1: Identify when you are most likely to make impulse purchases. When are you most vulnerable to making rash spending decisions? Does this happen on pay day? Do you shop when you are sad? Are you a sucker for good sales? Take a long, hard look at WHEN & WHY you spend outside your budget. Patterns will often emerge.

Step 2: Identify the feeling you get when you make impulse purchase. Once you get a firm handle on your state of mind when you make impulse purchases, ask yourself what the act of spending feels like to you at that moment. Do you feel rewarded? Distracted? Hopeful? When you buy something on impulse, it makes you feel a certain way. That feeling is ultimately WHY you are buying it.

Step 3: Find alternative ways to achieve that feeling. Once you understand the feeling you get from impulse

NAYO WINNERS continued from page twenty-one



**13-15 Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Champion
Pitch Slap**



**13-15 Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Runner-Up
Seminoles**



13-15 Boys Baseball Champion - Poarch Creek



13-15 Boys Baseball Runner-Up - Dirtbags



**Senior Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Champion
Native Pride**



**Senior Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Runner-Up
Independentz**



**Senior Boys Baseball Champion
Choctaw Baseball**



Senior Boys Baseball Runner-Up - Choctaws

...continued next page

FOR THE RECORD

Submitted by Daniel Mittan, Director of Court Services, Choctaw Tribal Court

Ever feel like running away? It is not against the law for adults to run away from home. Some of us may feel like doing that from time to time, but we usually find another way to deal with our frustrations.

It is not against the law for anyone over 18 to possess tobacco products. Most of us have heeded the warnings & either refrain from using tobacco or to never start.

It is not against the law for those 21 or older to possess alcoholic beverages. There are legal, physical, & relational consequences when consumed in excess. These laws that have age stipulations are called "status offenses" for the youth in our communities.

Many communities across the U.S. have curfews for their youth with consequences for

violations reaching their parents. This is also a status offense.

It is important to note that Federal laws prohibit youth (or specifically - minors under the age of 18 here on the reservation) from being locked up in detention for these offenses. Detention can be used for those youth "committing an offense that would be considered a crime by an adult." However, detention for youth should be considered a "last resort" action.

Research has been shown that when a youth is placed in detention, they are much more likely to return repeatedly. This rate multiplies exponentially the earlier the age of the youth upon first admission.

The current belief is that a strong reentry program can reduce this effect. Still, when a youth commits a serious offense where loss of life is possible (acts committed using weapons, acts concerning narcotics & dangerous drugs, other Class A offenses as determined by the Choctaw Tribal

Code) OR when acts that would be a crime if committed by an adult are "chronic" (occurring repeatedly over a short period of time), it may be necessary to intervene with detention to protect the public AND the offender.

Running away from home is a special problem. It is usually very complicated. The Choctaw Tribal Youth Court, the Attorney General's Office, Department of Public Safety, Court Services, Behavioral Health, Children & Family Services, & the Choctaw Children's Advocacy Center are ALL interested in discovering the WHY behind a child or youth's decision to run away from home.

Is it that the youth is going through a rebellious stage, or showing independence to be friends without regard for limitations? Is it because the family is having difficulties handling the loss of a loved one or the loss of their home? Is it possibly because of some other trauma happening like abuse or neglect? Is it from the

pressure of unrealistic expectations for the youth?

Running away is a very dangerous response for our youth in this day & time. One only needs to pick up the paper, listen to the radio or watch the news on television to understand - & these dangers are here even in East Central Mississippi. Running away can lead to further offenses, but can also turn offenders into victims.

Additionally, it is the practice of Court Services to work with the Office of Attorney General in prosecuting any adult that harbors a minor running away (unless it is proven that the minor ran away because of abuse or neglect).

You should call Choctaw Police at 601-656-5711 if a minor comes to your door stating that they have been kicked out of their residence or are otherwise alleging abuse or neglect.

If your child is running away, talk to someone. In fact, talk to people you feel you can trust. There is nothing wrong with getting wisdom.

**REPORT CRIMES
ANONYMOUSLY**

Wetip INC.

**Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)**

or visit www.wetip.com

**CALL IF YOU HAVE
INFORMATION ABOUT:**

- **Theft**
- **Child Abuse**
- **Vandalism**
- **Illegal Drugs**
- **Bullying**
- **Assault**
- **Or any other illegal activity**

**You can call 24 hours a day
& report your concern to us.
No one will ask your name,
you will remain anonymous.
Your tip may lead to a
REWARD, up to \$1,000!**

Develop a plan. Every child is an individual. There is no one response that will resolve this issue for every child or youth. It is usually frustrating to address, but this is important work.

Each child or youth is important. Court Services & all other tribal agencies & programs are always searching for answers & ways to be of assistance. The most important response is to never give up.

spending, the final step is to identify a replacement activity that gives you the same feeling, but without the budget-busting expense.

Have you ever gone to a certain store every weekend, not because you needed anything, but because you were bored? Perhaps running errands makes you feel productive. Doing certain chores around the

house can also make you feel productive, & does not cost a dime.

It is a process, & some alternatives work better than others. Just as I tell participants in my budgeting sessions, for every person in this room, each of us may have our own way of developing our personal budget that works best. There is no "one size fits all."

So, finding & adapting

to a new method in this situation may be difficult. Find something to achieve that "feeling" that will have a positive impact on your life. It's worth the effort when it puts you in a better position to meet all your important financial goals.

Some other tips to control impulse buying include:

- Always follow a shopping list, & stick to

it. This is important for grocery shopping as well as going to any store, or online shopping.

- Wait at least a week after you see an item in a store (or online) before you buy it.

- Take your name off junk mail lists. (Contact Extension Office for details.)

- Pay in cash without the lure of "unlimited" credit.

- Stay away from money traps such as your favorite bakery.

- Use your rewards & use them wisely.

- Skip the mall.

- Declutter before you buy.

- Shop less often.

For more information, contact your local office of Mississippi State University Extension.

IN MEMORIAM

MAYBELLENE SOLOMON

Funeral service for Maybellene Solomon, 56, was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in

charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Solomon passed away on July 1 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed as a security officer at Pearl River Resort. She made stickball aprons, headbands & bandanas & was a part of the Tali Ohoyo stickball team.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Philip & Zula Anderson; parents, Londell Nickey & Vina Mae Jefferson; brothers, Calvert Jefferson & Richie Jefferson; an uncle, an aunt, a grandson, & four infants.

Survivors include her husband, Chancellor Solomon, Sr.; daughters, Wanoka Solomon, Quannah Solomon, Sherina Solomon, Monica Solomon, Hope Solo-

mon, Jamona Solomon, & Melia Solomon; a son, Chancellor Solomon, Jr.; sisters, Cynthia Thomas, LaTonya Willis & Clarissa Nickey; brothers, Kenneth Nick-ey, Jimmy Nickey, Greg Nickey, Alvin Nickey, Shaunrey Jefferson, & Alvin Isom; an aunt; 42 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

AGNES E. POLK YORK

Funeral service for Agnes E. Polk York, 69, was held on Friday, July 8, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. York passed away on July 4 at Anderson

...continued next page

Elderly Victims of Abuse: What You Can Do To Help

Three to five million elders experience some form of abuse each year, according to statistics from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

The White House Conference on Aging, which takes place every decade, issued in 2015 their final report declaring the Department of Justice (DOJ) would create tools to help advocates who work with the elderly – particularly those who experienced physical or sexual abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or other forms of domestic violence.

As a friend, caregiver or family member, you may be concerned about an elderly victim, but you might also feel frustrated or unprepared to help that elder through the crisis.

You may not have the tools or resources at your disposal that was mentioned by DOJ; howev-

er, there are things you can do to help our elders who have been abused:

First of all, **LISTEN**. Sometimes the most important thing we can do is listen. This means taking the time to sit down with the victim. Take time to listen to what the elder is saying. One of the most important things we can do is to really hear what the elder is telling us. By just listening, this lets the elder know that someone cares & that his/her thoughts are heard & validated.

Secondly, **AVOID ASKING "WHY?"** The elder victim is not at fault - the offender is to blame. We should always avoid asking questions such as, "Why didn't you say anything?" or "Why didn't you call the police?" The elder may already feel powerless or helpless & by asking questions such as these,

the elder may feel even more helpless. The elder may even feel he/she has done something wrong. This is not the elder's fault.

Third, **HOLD THE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABLE**. The victim is not to blame - the offender is the one who deserves to be punished. You can try to lift the shame & discouragement of the elderly victim by saying something like, "I am very sorry this happened to you," or "You do not deserve to be treated like this." This very well could be the starting point for that elderly abuse victim to begin to heal.

Finally, **EMPOWER THE VICTIM**. The elderly victim may feel as if his/her choices have all been taken away by the perpetrator. Therefore, it is important the elder always be given choices every step of the way in the process.

By allowing the elderly victim to make their own choices, this helps to empower the victim. The elder then can begin to take back control of his/her own life.

Minimizing the trauma, but not denying the trauma, is something each of us can help to do in order to help our elder abuse victims when they have experienced abuse such as sexual abuse or

domestic violence, or other forms of abuse.

These four concepts are something any of us can use in helping our elderly victims of violence. You may not be a trained professional, but there are ways you can help. For further information or questions, please contact Family Violence & Victim Services at 601-650-1774. Yakoki!

Prevent Elder Abuse



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774



Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church & was a Choctaw Bible teacher & enjoyed Choctaw hymns. She served as Standing Pine representative to the Choctaw Tribal Council.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Comeal & Emma McMillan Polk; husband, Randy Rudy York; sons, Reginald York & adopted son Irvin Jefferson; sisters, Grace Wallace, Louise Chapman & Margaret Henry; & an aunt.

Survivors include a daughter, LaMonica York; sons, Warren York, Ryan York, Melton York, & Randy York; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and

adopted brother, Gary Chickaway; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

PAULINE MINGO

Funeral service for Pauline Mingo, 64, was held on Sunday, July 10, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Mingo passed away on July 7 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She was employed at Bogue Chitto School, Chahta Enterprise & Choctaw Greenhouse. She enjoyed fishing, playing bingo & socializing.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Arch & Emma Mingo; brothers, Charlie Hickman & Marzine Mingo; & a sister, Lorene Cumberland.

Survivors include daughters, Diana Mingo Smith & Jennifer Stevens; sisters, Maline Bell & Laline Rush; a brother, John Mingo; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four god daughters; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

LOUREAN HICKMAN DENSON

Funeral service for Lourean Hickman Denson, 56, was held on Sunday, July 17, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Denson passed away on July 11 at her residence in Irvin, TX.

She was a Baptist & attended Dallas Indian Revival Church. She retired from Target & loved to garden, cook, listening to music, collecting family pictures, & spending time with loved ones.

She is preceded in death by her parents, John Mullet & Christine Hickman; & brothers, Dale Hickman & Terry Lee Hickman.

Survivors include her husband, Ricky Denson; daughter, Cherish Dawn Vazquez; son, Clint

Morgan Jones; step-son, Brandon Denson; sisters, Fannie Lou Jones & Annie Pearl Hickman; foster sister, Jessica Lynn Hickman; brothers, William Hickman, Sr., Randy Hickman, & Willie Jay Hickman; foster brothers, William Hickman, Jr. & Johnathon Lance Hickman; four grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CLINTON JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Clinton Jefferson, 79, was held on Friday, July 22, 2016, from the Bogue Homa Baptist Church. Deacon Billy Smith & Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Homa Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on July 18 at his residence.

He enjoyed playing washers, fishing, baseball, watching stickball, & spending time with family & friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Braxton & Dora Nickey Jefferson; wife, Mary Lou Charley Jefferson; daughter, Jewel Jefferson Frazier; sisters, Mary Ann Jefferson Farmer & Geneva Jefferson Chapman; brothers, Sammy Jefferson & Baxter Jefferson, Jr.; & two grandchildren.

Survivors include daughters, Gloria Nickey Bell, Sherry Charlie Jim & Susie Charlie

Thomas; a son, Randall Nickey; a brother, Morris Jefferson; 19 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; five nieces; two nephews; & a host of relatives & friends.

SYLIUS DREW THOMAS

Funeral service for Sylius Drew Thomas, 17, was held on Wednesday, August 3, 2016, from the Macedonia Baptist Church in Conehatta. Deacon William Isaac & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thomas passed away on July 29 in Conehatta.

He completed his junior year at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Okla., where he was on the basketball, cross country & track teams. He was a member of the Koni Hata Himintah team that won the 2016 Tulli Okchi Ishko Stickball championship. He was also a member of the Mystic Wind social dance group & loved his family.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Annistine Billy.

Survivors include his mother, Christine Billy; father, Stewart Thomas; sisters, Janice Wilson & Tiffany Shoemake; brothers, Tyrell Anderson, Christiansen Thomas, Greer Billy, Kodi Thomas, Kollior Thomas, & Kansyn Thomas;

.....see OBITs, pg. 26

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

8:30 a.m. - Morning Service
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
2nd Sunday at 7:00

Pastor: Rev. Robert Paul Tubby, Sr.

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. - Pray Walk
6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/Family Ministry Class
7:30 p.m. - Worship Service

Youth Pastor: Rev. Monte Farve

*To the Jews who had believed him,
Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-5446

Pastor Thomas Ben

Welcome To



Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

OBITS continued from page twenty-five

a special companion, Mareanna Marquiz; & a host of relatives & friends.

**SARENE CHARLIE
COMBY**

Funeral service for Sarene Charlie Comby, 78, was held on Thursday, August 4, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelley Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Comby passed away on July 30 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She picked cotton & later worked as a housekeeper at Madden Hospital, babysitter, Green Acres, & Choctaw Electronics. She taught arts & crafts in 4-H Clubs & was involved with the Standing Pine Social Dance group.

She enjoyed fishing, basket weaving, beadwork, gardening, listening to gospel music, & spending time with family & friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Coyt & Sinnie Davis Charlie; husband, William Comby, Jr.; sisters, Irene Charlie, Nancy Charlie & Mattie Charlie; & brothers, Louie Charlie & Coburn Charlie, Sr.

Survivors include her daughters, Marcia Comby & Sally Webb; sons, Gordon Sam, William

Comby, III, Samuel Comby, & Kernan Comby; sisters, Fannie Peoples & Annie Sue Lewis; 11 grandchildren; 1 great-granddaughter; & a host of relatives & friends.

JOHN BENN, SR.

Funeral service for John Benn, Sr., 78, was held on Monday, August 8, 2016, from Chihowa I Chuka Assembly of God Church in Philadelphia. Rev. Bob Wilkerson officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Benn passed away on August 5 at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland.

He enjoyed doing yard work & helping others.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Monroe & Lorene McMillian Benn; sisters, Lula Mae Benn Farmer & Minnie Lou Benn; & brothers, Willie Dee Benn & Cicero Billie.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine Tubby Benn; daughter, Valerie Benn Herrera; sons, Mario Benn & John Benn, Jr.; sisters, Eileen Billie & Inez Willis; three grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

NATHANIEL LEE TUBBY

Funeral service for Nathaniel Lee Tubby, 49, was held on Thursday, August 11, 2016, from the Greenhill United Methodist Church in

Choctaw. Bro. Ferron Oaks, Bro. Larry Muse, Bro. Herb Boyles & President David Jarnagin officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Tubby passed away on Aug. 8 at his residence.

He was employed with Choctaw Manufacturing Enterprise & enjoyed watching University of Alabama football.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Effie Bell Tubby & Lewis Tubby; father, Coburn Charlie, Sr.; three aunts; three uncles; & two grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Sally Tubby; daughter, Synetha Tubby; sons, Nathan Tubby & Tuskahoma Tubby; mother, Myrtis Morris; eight grandchildren; sisters, Quannah Morris Bell, Kimberly Larney, Lisa Charlie, & Tressie Charlie; brothers, Coburn Charlie, Jr., Darren Charlie & John Charlie; four aunts; three uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JERRY LEE DENSON

Funeral service for Jerry Lee Denson, 57, was held on Monday, August 15, 2016, from the Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Rev. Leonard Ben officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E.

Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Denson passed away on Aug. 12 at his residence.

He was a Marine Corps veteran & attained the rank of Lance Corporal. He was honorably discharged in 1984 & joined the U.S. Forestry Department as a forest fire fighter. He enjoyed interacting with people, was skilled in automotive repair & was employed with Pearl River Resort's maintenance department. He was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Easlin Denson & Lucille Chickaway; & grandparents, Willie & Beauty Anderson Denson, Houston & Edna Sam Lewis.

Survivors include his daughter, Dusti Jimmie; sons, Torry B. Denson & Jeremy Williams; sisters, Charlene Denson Sam, Glenda Denson, Loriann Denson Ahshapanek, & Irene Tubby; brothers, Ricky Lee Denson, Sr. & Ryan Kurry Chickaway; special friend, Georgia John; seven grandchildren; & host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JAMES DEAN AMOS

Funeral service for James Dean Amos, 59, was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Rev. Richard Farve & Rev. George

Dixon officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Amos passed away on August 12 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort as a porter then in maintenance. He enjoyed fishing & being with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Amos & Jeanette Morris; sons, Keith Amos & Dominic Amos; a sister, Mary Louise Hickman; & grandparents, Waggoner & Rosie Amos.

Survivors include a son, Luther Amos; nine grandchildren; six aunts; an uncle; two nieces; a godson; & a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, relatives, & friends.

IVAN JEFFERY WILSON

Funeral service for Ivan Jeffery Wilson, 54, was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T. officiated.

Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wilson passed away on Aug. 12 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

...continued next page

He enjoyed fishing, watching wrestling, listening to country music, gardening, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon Jim & Sinee Wilson; sisters, Trina Jim & Mattie Lou Wilson; & a stepdaughter, Deneetria Schrock.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda K. Wilson; a stepdaughter, Cornelius Dan; a stepson, Ashley McMillan; three aunts; an uncle; a niece; seven nephews; & a host of relatives & friends.

ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

Funeral service for Alexander Williams, 50, was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T. officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Williams passed away on Aug. 19 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was employed as a live haul catcher then a porter at Pearl River Resort. He was an Alabama Crimson Tide fan & enjoyed fishing, watching the Koni Hata stickball team play & spending time with family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter & Mary Shoemake Williams; wife, Janice Williams; two infants; a sister, Lou Anna Williams; brothers, Elvis Williams & Willard

Williams; grandparents, Rufus & Nellie Williams, Buck Shumake & Annie Billie Shoemake; a grandson; six aunts; & six uncles.

Survivors include daughters, Vernaline Williams, Berna Williams & Matilda Williams; sons, Shawn Williams & Damion Williams; brothers, Gaylon Williams & Marty Williams; two aunts; an uncle; 16 grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

LEONARD DALE AMOS

Graveside service for Leonard Dale Amos, 50, was held on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church Cemetery in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T. officiated.

John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Amos passed away on Aug. 10 at his residence.

He enjoyed playing the guitar & was a member of several bands. He enjoyed watching movies & being with family & friends. He was a fan of the Pearl River stickball team & was employed at Pearl River Resort/Dancing Rabbit Golf Club.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sally Dixon Amos; parents, Finis & Marie "Theresa" McMillan Amos; sisters, Audria Simpson & Nita Amos; & grandparents, Anthony & Venie Comby McMillan, Willis & Minnie Bell Amos.

Survivors include his brothers, Edward Simpson & Anthony Simpson; an aunt; & a host of relatives & friends.

GEORGE WINSTON STEVE

Funeral service for George Winston Steve, 51, was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, from the Chihowa I Chuka Assembly of God in Philadelphia. Rev. Thomas Ben officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Steve passed away on Aug. 18 at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

He enjoyed fishing, playing cards, listening to Alan Jackson, watching the Dallas Cowboys, & spending time with family & friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John & Maxine Steve; sisters, Barbara Steve Farve & Mary Jane Steve York; & brothers, Gerald Lee Steve, Charlie Steve & Harry Wayne Steve.

Survivors include his daughter, Arlana Gail Mingo; sister, Donna Mary Garcia; brother, Nathaniel John Steve;

& a host of relatives & friends.

COKIE LAMONTE McCOMBS

Funeral service for Cokie Lamonte McCombs, 45, was held on Thursday, September 1, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Doby Henry & Pastor Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. McCombs passed away on Aug. 28 at South Regional Medical Center in Laurel.

He was employed at Pearl River Resort &

enjoyed spending time with family & friends, playing guitar & singing.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, W.C. & Josephine Nickey; a son, Davin Wilson; & a sister, Latiasha Lewis.

Survivors include his daughter, Halle Wilson; parents, George McCombs, III & Emaline Lewis; sister, Tenisha McCombs Bonney; brothers, Kimo McCombs & Matthew Lewis; & a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

AB
mechanical, inc.

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Choctaw, MS 39350
(Office) 601-656-4818
(Fax) 601-656-4418
Allen Peoples, President/Owner,
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Choctaw, MS

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Choctaw, Mississippi

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

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be picked up at the Office of
Economic Development, or
if you have any questions
call DeeSandra Ben at
601-650-1612.

Happy 7th Birthday to Miss Haylen C. Thomas on July 30th, 2016. With all the love in the

world, giant hugs & big kisses from your Mom, Dad, & the Justice League (Renedra, Jeter, Dain, Q, Mya, & Lil Miss Emma Grace).

Happy Birthday to our brother Auburn L. Jefferson (a.k.a. Arbs) on Aug. 22. He is a retired PR stickball player. Have fun & don't overdo it. From your sisters, Baby Sis Karene J., Moss & family, Peggy W. & family, the Wilson family, & cousins & friends in B.C.

Happy Birthday to Lavenia Shatoni Bell, from your family in B.C.



Henning, TN Grads Honored

The parents and families of the Bogue Chitto-Henning, Tennessee Community would like to recognize the following members of the Class of 2016.

Alisha Langford, daughter of Darrell and Gwen Langford, granddaughter of Cubert Bell, Sr. and Lacie Bell of the Bogue Chitto-Henning, TN Community, graduated May 19 from Ripley High School. She will be attending Dyersburg State Community College this fall to study criminal justice.

*Congratulations
Alisha!
From the Langford
family, Mom, Dad,
& Deven.*



*Congratulations
Sydney!
We are proud of you
with all our love
& support. From
Mom, Dad, Josh, &
Shelby.*

Sydney Moore, daughter of Shawn and Margaret Moore, granddaughter of Helen Thompson of the Pearl River Community and the late Wayne Thompson, graduated with honors May 22 in Memphis, TN. Sydney will be attending the University of Memphis in the Honors Program in the fall to study physical therapy.

Jalil Jackson, son of Cornelius and Myra Jackson, grandson of Jaunita Thompson Gardinski and nephew of Jeremiah and Jarrett Thompson, graduated May 13 from Dyer County High School in Newbern, TN. He scored a 30 on the ACT & was ranked #1 in his class. Jalil plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville this fall where he was accepted into the engineering program.



*Congratulations
Jalil!*

Congratulations to all graduates and good luck in your future endeavors.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

JULY-AUGUST 2016

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**THERE ARE MANY PLACES
TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE.**

Anyone can get the flu, and it can be serious. Every year, protect yourself and those around you by getting a flu vaccine.



For more information, visit
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER PRIMARY CARE CLINICS & THE OUTLAYING HEALTH CLINICS OF BOGUE CHITTO, CONEHATTA & RED WATER WILL BEGIN OFFERING THE ADULT & CHILDREN FLU VACCINES IN OCTOBER. CONTACT THE FOLLOWING FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bogue Chitto Clinic	601.656.5442
Conehatta Clinic	601.775.3446
Red Water Clinic	601.267.8368
Primary Care Clinic	601.389.4302
Public Health Services	601.389.4110



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

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CHOCTAW, MISSISSIPPI 39350

SEPTEMBER 2016



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ TRIBAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

www.choctaw.org

Pearl River Resort Opens New Printing Company

The Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise (CRDE), a business enterprise of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, held a grand opening ceremony on Sept. 15 for their latest business venture, Pearl River Graphics Printing (PRGP).

Located in Choctaw, Miss., PRGP is a specialized printing company that was designed to service individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations locally and across the state.

The company's wide range of capabilities include small and large format printing of banners, stake signs, posters, invitations,



In attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony included Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac, Interim Pearl River Resort President & CEO William "Sonny" Johnson, PRGP/Marketing Director Gerrard Cook, other members of the Pearl River Resort executive leadership team, and staff of Pearl River Graphics.

business cards, letterheads, envelopes, flyers and much more.

The facility, located in the old First American building on 404 Industrial Road,

Suite 1, is open Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call 601.656.3636 or visit www.pearlriverprinting.com.

Tribe Receives Language Grants

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians announces its receipt of two highly beneficial Federal grant awards to preserve and promote

the use of the Tribe's native Choctaw language in the Tribal School System and in the Choctaw communities.

The Tribe has received a total of \$2.4M through

two Federal grant awards to expand its operation of the Choctaw Language Program in the Tribal Schools for the next five years.

The funding agencies are the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration for Native Americans in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The "Carry the Language Forward" program, called "Annoppa Tikbishtiya" in the Choctaw language, supports the teaching, learning, and studying of the Choctaw language, while increasing English language proficiency of Choctaw children.

The Tribe will work to help reduce language barriers in Mississippi



Pictured, front row from left, DeLaura Saunders, Tribal Language Director/Community Program; Roseanna Thompson, Director; Jason Lewis, Training & Evaluation Coordinator; Abrianna Tubby, Curriculum Coordinator; back row, Pam Smith, Accreditation Specialist; Choctaw Language teachers Penny Isaac, Pandora Sockey, Renata Morris, & Darlene Vaughn.

Choctaw households by increasing opportunities for children to learn and acquire the Choctaw language, while also providing opportunities for families to develop strategies and activities for overcoming Choctaw and English language barriers.

The program will

serve almost 800 young Choctaw students in its first year, with Choctaw language being taught in all six of the Choctaw Tribal elementary schools' early grade levels.

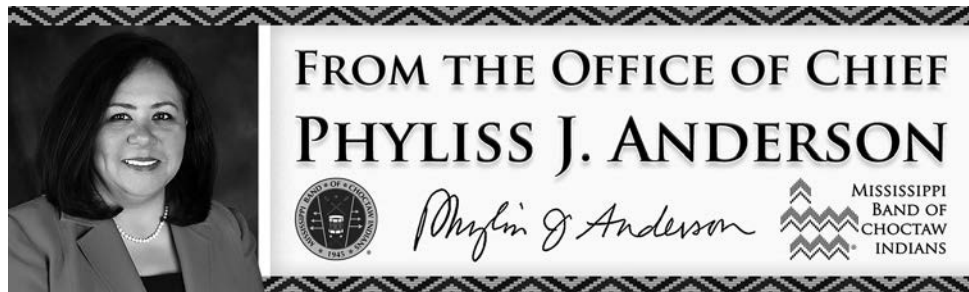
The program will also develop home- and

...see GRANTS, pg. 6



Battle of the Nations XX

The Choctaw Central Warriors came up short to the Cherokee Braves 26-25 in the 20th Battle of the Nations rivalry game on Sept. 2 in Cherokee. Pictured above, Choctaw Central running back Joshua Jordan runs through the Braves defense. The Braves hold a 11-9 advantage in the series.



Halito!

Fall is in the air and we have enjoyed some beautiful weather on the reservation. The school year and Warrior football is in full swing along with planning for many other events.

Our programs have been hard at work with budget presentations and at tribal offices we are preparing for the new Fiscal Year.

It's hard to believe we only have a few months left in 2016. Time passes very quickly and we have many great accomplishments to reflect on.

Choctaw Day at Geyser Falls

On Labor Day, September 5, 2016, I was so happy to host Choctaw Day at Geyser Falls Water Theme Park. We gave away 4,000 tick-

ets to tribal members to enjoy the closing weekend. Our tribal member guests also enjoyed 40 percent discount on food and beverage items.

We have received many positive comments and I am so happy our tribal members appreciated this free activity at the end of summer.

Thank you to the staff at Geyser Falls and Pearl River Resort for their support of this event and to our tribal government employees who assisted with distribution of tickets. I know many family fun memories were made.

White House Tribal Nations Conference

On September 26-27, 2016, I had the honor of representing our Choctaw people at the White House Tribal Nations

Conference in Washington D.C. This conference was first initiated by President Barack Obama as a gathering of tribal nation leaders to open important dialogue about pressing issues in Indian Country.

This was President Obama's last conference before he leaves the White House and it has been a true pleasure to work with President Obama and his capable administration.

The President and First Lady, Michelle Obama, have visited more tribal communities than any other U.S. President. President Obama has been a real champion for Indian Country on a number of key legislative pieces including the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, contract support cost, general welfare exclusion act, tribal healthcare and education to name a few.

While in Washington, I had the pleasure of speaking on a panel of tribal leaders about the importance of this conference and about the Obama administration's support of Indian Country.

I also participated in a National Advisory Council on Indian Education meeting that was attended by both Interi-

or Secretary Sally Jewell and Education Secretary John B. King, Jr.

During the conference our tribe was invited to showcase our traditional social dancing. Thank you to our dancers – Kendall Wallace, Pam Smith, Phyllis McMillan, Tyler Amos, chanter/drummer Speedy Lewis, and Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Layne Isaac for a beautiful performance.

It certainly was an eventful week in our nation's capital. It was truly an honor to represent our Choctaw people during these important meetings.

FY2017 Budget and Cost-of-Living Increases

On September 20, 2016, during a special call council meeting, I presented the Tribal government budget and it was passed 10-7. There has been a lot of hard work put into the FY2017 budget and I want to thank everyone involved with the preparation and presentations.

Our Audit report indicated the Tribe's financial health is the best it has been since FY2007 and we are continuing to grow! I truly believe we have found these successes by working together and looking out for the LONG-TERM interest of the Tribe.

We are on the right track and our budget for FY17 shows the continued strengthening of our tribal finances. Thank you to our program directors and managers

for their hard work and dedication in creating a budget that meets the needs of our tribal members while still operating programs proficiently.

I also want to thank tribal council members for participation at these meetings and attentive review of these budget reports.

Many thanks also to tribal administration staff, budget and finance personnel and associates at Pearl River Resort for their outstanding support over the last couple of months.

We have many excited things planned for the upcoming year. Some of the highlights include:

- \$2 Million for three new fire trucks required to maintain current insurance ratings;
- \$1.5 Million for Tribal Adult Softball Multiplex;
- \$3 Million in Housing Developments;
- \$1 Million in Elder roof and driveway repairs;
- Salary supplements for Head Start and Early Head Start teachers;
- Funding for needed vehicles and equipment;
- Funding for the completion of the new Tribal Council Hall;
- Funding for the completion and operating budget of the new Multi-Purpose Facility in Henning;
- Funding for recruitment and retention plan for Law Enforcement Officers

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

- (compensation plan);
- Funding for Domestic Violence Shelter Operations;
 - Funding for New HVAC and Maintenance Technicians;
 - Funding for New Engineer and GIS Technician;
 - Funding for increased lobbying efforts in Mississippi and Alabama;
 - Increased funding for Information Technology;
 - Funding for a Grants Compliance Office.

The plans we have for the upcoming year include a 2.5 percent Cost of Living Increase for all Tribal Government employees. Program Directors were able to find the necessary funding in their existing budgets for the COLA without many significant increases in our recurring general revenue budget. The numbers we are reporting show great growth and indicate good management practices.

I believe the budget presented in its entirety represents a very strong financial plan for our programs. The strides we continue to make by managing our resources responsibly and operating a government that provides efficient and effective services for tribal members has proven to be successful. Now we move forward into a new year that holds great promise for our Tribe!

Choctaw Community Fund

Preparations are underway for the Choctaw Community Fund drive. I urge all tribal employees, Pearl River Resort team members and employees at our tribal businesses to consider making a contribution to the CCF.

Every contribution that is received allows the tribe to have more flexibility when assigning funds to organizations.

Contributors are asked to give their "fair share." This amounts to less than one-half of one percent of a person's annual income. For example, if an employee earns \$20,000 a year, their "fair share" would be a little less than \$2.00 a week.

A person can make a contribution up front or request payroll deduction. If you have any questions about the CCF, please contact Chassidy Wilson at (601) 650-1589 or at chassidy.wilson@choctaw.org.

Big Wins for MBCI Teams and Participants in Tushka Homma

Many of our tribal members traveled to Tushka Homma, Oklahoma in September for the Choctaw Nation's Annual Labor Day Festival.

Several of our stickball teams participated in this year's tournament, including Beaver Dam and MBCI. MBCI

took home the championship stickball trophy with Beaver Dam placing second!

The talented members of Mississippi's Finest Tribe well in the volleyball tournament as they brought home the championship.

Great job to all our players and congratulations to our coaches and supporters!

Service Awards at Pearl River Resort

On September 6-7, 2016, the Pearl River Resort hosted Service Awards for associates that have served the Resort for 5, 10, 15 and 20 years.

These associates enjoyed a nice meal prepared and presented by the Pearl River Resort Food and Beverage Department. They also received a certificate and pin for their years of service.

Our Resort's successes are a real testament to the hardworking and dedicated associates who loyally come to work and serve our valued guests.

Thank you again to associates and congratulations on this milestone achievement.

Wildlife Jamboree

We have enjoyed beautiful weather this month and Saturday, September 17th at Lake Pushmataha was a perfect day for the Wildlife Jamboree, sponsored by Choctaw Wildlife and Parks and the MSU Ex-

tension Services.

Hundreds of people came through the event to enjoy the multitude of activities available including canoe rides, archery range, conservation booths, face painting, horse back riding, obstacle course, rabbit stick throw, and other outdoor activities. There was also a tasting buffet of wild game including deer and wild pig available for all in attendance.

I know many that enjoyed the day and I want to thank all the staff and volunteers who came out and worked this event.

Boys and Girls Club Kids Day

The Annual Kids Day, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club, was held at the Pearl River Amphitheater on the morning of Saturday, September 17th.

As always, the event was filled with many fun activities for Boys and Girls including bounce houses, face painting, bingo and more.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers for putting on another wonderful event and to the parents for bringing their children out to enjoy this fun day of fellowship with friends.

Upcoming Events

As fall approaches there are so many activities we have planned on the reservation. While I cannot list them all, a few are listed below. I hope you will mark your

calendars and make plans to attend.

- Choctaw Central High School Tailgate Party is Friday, October 21, 2016, on the front lawn of Choctaw Central High School.
- The Reservation-wide Thanksgiving Feast is Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at the Silver Star Convention Center.
- Veterans' Day Pow-Wow is Friday and Saturday, November 11-12, 2016 at the Pearl River softball field. The Veterans' Day Parade is Friday, November 11, 2016, on Blackjack Road.
- The Grand Opening of the Henning Multi-Purpose Facility and Thanksgiving Feast is set for Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Henning, Tennessee.

Closing

In closing, I want to again express my appreciation and gratitude to our tribal government employees, council members, resort associates and management team, tribal enterprise employees and all of our MBCI tribal members for their support and encouragement over the last month.

What a joy it is to know we are on the right path as we start this new fiscal year!

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken. Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must

have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM completed & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

SPECIAL CALL MEETING SEPT. 20, 2016

Resolution CHO 16-088, approving Fiscal Year 2017 Budgets for Tribal Administration, Programs, Agencies & Operations, was ADOPTED 10 YES

(T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, B. Steve, & J. Wesley); 7 NO (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, S. York, & D. Wilson); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-089, approving a Cost of Living Increase for Tribal Government Employees, was ADOPTED 15 YES (R. Anderson, R. Bell, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (C. Ben & W. McMillan); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-090, appointing mem-

bers to the Tribal Enrollment Committee, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 1 ABSTAIN (J. Wesley).

Resolution CHO 16-091, confirming the appointment of members to the Tribal Credit Committee, was ADOPTED 9 YES (T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, H. Nickey, R. Sockey, & B. Steve); 8 NO (R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-092, appointing Richard Sockey to the Choctaw Health Department Governing Board, was

...continued next page

NOTICE

HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, and the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, and our office is committed to making sure that all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out the letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We are looking forward to working with and assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you and your family members receive all rights and privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

Tribal Distribution Office News

TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION REMINDERS!

Please help us make the process of receiving your check easier by having the following information current. (*All of the following needs to be done and turned in to the Tribal Distribution Office.*)

- Over 18 years old (Photo I.D.)
- Custody change (Court Order)
- Name changes (Marriage/Divorce with new name on your Social Security card)
- Address changes - (If you do a forwarding address with your local post office, please fill out an application with our office also since the forwarding time does have an expiration.)
 - Anytime you do an address change for yourself, always include all of your dependants.
 - We DO NOT accept address changes over the phone.
- Tax (W-4V)

DIRECT DEPOSIT is still available!

Keep in mind if your check was captured for anything from the previous distribution, you will have to submit a new application to do Direct Deposit again.

UNCLAIMED CHECKS

Tribal Distribution Office will only hold your check for 6 months. If you have not received your check, please contact Barbara Ben at 601-650-1522. The check will be returned to the General Revenue Fund after 6 months if not claimed.

The Tribal Distribution office is located on the upper level of the Tribal Office building in the Finance Department. The forms are available in the lobby or in the Finance Office and you can also visit www.choctaw.org.

For more information, please call Barbara Ben, Distribution Manager, at 601-650-1522.

ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-093, accepting a mini-grant award from the Mockingbird Foundation, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

(R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-094, approving the Choctaw Tribal School System's Dormitory Handbook for the 2016-2017 School Year, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Resolution CHO 16-095, authorizing the Office of Utilities Management to install fiber optic & communi-

cation lines in the Pearl River Community, was ADOPTED 15 YES (C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry,

R. Isaac, S. Johnson, D. McClelland, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Wil-

lis, & D. Wilson); 2 NO (R. Anderson & R. Bell); 0 ABSTAIN.

Tribal Law In Effect

According to Title XIX (19) of the Choctaw Tribal Code, Non-Members Residing in Indian Country, any non-member/non-Indian who lives on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Reservation must have a valid permit to do so.

On July 1, 2016, a new Tribal law went into effect which makes it illegal for a tribal member to harbor non-members living on the Reservation without a valid permit.

Permit applications are available from the Permit Officer, Ferrell Thomas, at the Choctaw Police Department.

§3-6-35 Harboring or Assisting Non-Members Residing in Choctaw Indian Country without a Permit

Any person who intentionally or knowingly:

- Aids, abets, or harbors a person(s) who is/are required to comply with the residency application process under Title XIX (19) of this Code; or

- Prevents or obstructs law enforcement or the Tribe's permit officer from lawfully serving a permit notice to any non-Indian residing on the reservation; or

- Prevents lawful

service of process of summons or subpoenas upon any non-Indian person(s) by either law enforcement or private process server who is being unlawfully concealed; or

- Continues to provide a residence or shelter to any non-Indian person(s) who have been denied a permit after an application has been denied, or after non-re-

newal of a prior permit, or after revocation of a permit, Shall be guilty of Harboring or Assisting Non-Member Residents in Choctaw Indian Country.

Harboring or assisting non-member residents in Choctaw Indian Country is a Class B offense.

Any tribal member who is found in violation of this code can receive a maximum sentence of ninety (90) days in jail and/or a \$250 fine.

Exclusion From The Choctaw Reservation

*Submitted by
Tanya Phillips, Staff
Attorney*

Choctaw Tribal Code section 3-6-34, "Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Exclusion Order" went into effect on July 1, 2016.

Persons who allow an excluded individual to reside in their home on the reservation, or help to hide and conceal an excluded person on the reservation from law enforcement or from service of process, can be charged by the Choctaw Police Department. Violation of this section is a Class A offense.

The new code section reads as follows:

§3-6-34 Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Order of Exclusion

Any person who knowingly or intentionally:

- harbors or conceals a person who has been formally adjudicated by the Tribal Court to be excluded, or banned, from being within the boundaries of the reservation, or from residing on the reservation; or

- warns the excluded person of impending apprehension by law enforcement; or

- prevents or obstructs law enforcement or refuses to aid law enforcement in the search

.....see CODE, pg. 6

Williams Re-Confirmed Supreme Court Justice

O. Joseph Williams, an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), was re-confirmed on August 27, 2016, by the Sac and Fox Nation Governing Council to serve as a Justice on the Sac and Fox Nation Supreme Court for a second six-year term.



O. Joseph Williams

During his first term, Williams was elected by the Supreme Court membership to serve as Chief Justice of the Court. The Sac and Fox Nation Tribal Court is located in Stroud, Okla.

Williams is an attorney in private practice located in Okmulgee, Okla., with his primary area of practice in Indian law and policy with 15 years of experience. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc., a former Chair for the Oklahoma Bar Association-Indian Law Section and a former Secretary for the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association.

Williams is from the Standing Pine Community and also provides legal counsel to the MBCI Office of the Tribal Chief.

PERSONS EXCLUDED FROM THE CHOCTAW INDIAN RESERVATION

Name	Sex	Date of Exclusion
Backstrom, Christopher	M	04/04/12
Barnett, J. B.	M	02/18/05
Berry, Abreal Jedean	M	10/02/13
Billie, Zacharey Nathaniel	M	11/13/08
Brown, Charles	M	10/27/03
Carter, Jimmy	M	12/04/09
Chapala, Shannon	F	11/7/12
Clark, William *	M	08/11/05
Clemmons, Gary	M	08/22/05
Coble, John *	M	02/27/02
Concho, Wilbert	M	01/03/07
Craig, James	M	01/04/08
Decoteau, Donte	M	04/03/09
Dixon, Jarmal Antron	M	07/21/10
Drake, William Aaron *	M	09/21/06
Ealy, Timothy Hall	M	12/19/12
Edmund, LeRoger	M	12/17/04
Files, Kimberly	F	03/16/01
Goodin, Jason Leon	M	4/29/2015
Graves, Christopher Antonio	M	10/12/04
Greer, Tinsley Lee	M	09/01/00
Haik, James Emile	M	01/30/13
Hickman, John L.	M	11/18/96
Hickman, Robert	M	10/27/03
Hickman, Wanda Barbee *	F	07/17/09
Hill, Eddie Ray	M	11/20/14
Hill, Mack Arthur	M	02/18/05
Huddleston, Brad	M	06/20/02
Jaramillo, Jaime	M	11/06/09
Jones, Eric Dujuan	M	06/01/07
Jordan, Sharon	M	06/28/99
Kelly, Deanna Deshon *	F	12/04/09
Lee, Kendrick D.	M	02/23/10
Loper, Clyde O.	M	07/26/04
McCallum, Jarric L.	M	12/07/11
McCool, Charles Dewayne	M	10/09/09
McDill, James	M	01/26/98
McGee, Otis L.	M	4/21/2016
McKinney, Kedrick Marquez	M	6/18/2015
Miller, Reginald 'Red'	M	10/09/09
Mollie, Theophilus James, II	M	10/03/12
Monk, Alon Keith	M	08/06/10
Moore, Daniel	M	09/01/00
Moss, Monterrie Quinta	F	06/26/09
Nash, James Orlando 'Jamie'	M	03/16/01
Otter, Kristopher C.	M	05/27/14
Perez, Norberto	M	07/27/10
Proctor, Sam, Jr.	M	07/18/06
Ross, Eddie	M	09/28/10
Smith, Lawrence David	M	4/21/16
Stribling, Roderick	M	12/15/98
Talley, Michael Charles	M	09/01/00
Taylor, Donald Brian *	M	02/16/07
Tisdale, LaRobert	M	08/09/04
Toomes, Martravius L.	M	1/21/2015
Townsend, Dale	M	09/22/03
Triplett, Samuel	M	7/8/2015
Tubby, Marcell Reece, Jr.	M	10/17/12
Warren, Willie Joe	M	11/20/14
Weeks, Walter Shane	M	11/7/12
Whatley, Jack E.	M	01/05/01
Young, Trent Angelo	M	11/18/2015

*- Partial exclusion

CODE continued from page five

for or apprehension of an excluded person; or

- prevents lawful service of process of summons or subpoenas upon an excluded person by either law enforcement or private process server upon an excluded person who is being unlawfully concealed, shall be guilty of Harboring or Assisting Excluded Persons in Violation of an Order of Exclusion.

Harboring or assisting excluded persons in violation of an order of

exclusion is a Class A offense.

The Tribal Code may be accessed on the home page of the Tribe's website at www.choctaw.org.

Choctaw Tribal Code Title XX (20) provides the grounds and process for exclusion through the Tribal Civil Court.

Please note that a **Partial Exclusion** does allow the person to be on the reservation for specific purposes, but they are not allowed to reside

on the reservation.

Persons who are aware that an excluded individual can be found on the reservation should report their information to the Choctaw Police Department at 601-656-5711, or call WeTip at 1-855-4-THE-REZ to make an anonymous report.

A current list of the persons excluded from the reservation under Title XX of the Choctaw Tribal Code is listed on the left side of this page.

GRANTS continued from page one

community-based language advocacy strategies and Choctaw language-learning resources.

The Tribe's increased capacity through these two new Federal grants will enable the Tribal Schools to hire more certified Choctaw language instructors, further develop the Choctaw language curriculum, and strengthen training and evaluation efforts.

The Choctaw Language and Cultural Integration Program (CLCIP), under the Department of Schools, has been working in partnership with the Department of Chahta Immi's Choctaw Tribal Language Program for the past three years.

Currently, the first group is going through training sessions for the new Choctaw Language Classrooms at Bogue Chitto Elementary, Conehatta Elementary, and Red Water Elemen-

tary school. The next group will start as soon as classrooms are completed in Standing Pine, Tucker, and Pearl River Elementary.

The grants will, for the first time, provide six Choctaw language classrooms for Pre-K through 3rd grade to receive instruction daily.

Roseanna Thompson serves as the director of both grant projects and will oversee the projects during the 3/5 year cycle of the grants.

Some of the staff that will be instrumental in these projects are DeLaura Saunders, Tribal Language Director/Community Program; Jason Lewis, Training and Evaluation Coordinator; Abrianna Tubby, Curriculum Coordinator; Pam Smith, Accreditation Specialist; and Choctaw Language teachers Penny Isaac, Pandora Sockey, Renata Morris, and Darlene Vaughn.

Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson, who speaks Choctaw fluently, said, "These two new Federal grant awards that our tribe has received from the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration for Native Americans provide very necessary and important fiscal and human resources to support instruction of our native Choctaw language in our six elementary Tribal schools Reservation-wide."

"As we see a large number of Native American languages of other tribes being lost as English becomes predominant in their communities, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians is determined to keep our native language alive and widely spoken for generations to come. Native American languages, including Choctaw, are a national treasure that we must preserve and protect."



NEWS FROM THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

From the CHC Business Office

Did you know that if you are eligible for Purchased/Referred Care (PRC Referrals), you are required to notify the PRC program for emergency room visits at other hospitals/clinics? The PRC program must be notified of emergent care to other hospitals/clinics within 72 hours (3 days) of the emergency room visit

or admission. The patient, provider, hospital or someone on behalf of the patient must contact the PRC. The notification is extended to 30 days for the elderly (age 65+) and the disabled.

Business Office hours are Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When the Business Office is closed (after 5:00 p.m., weekends & holidays), please leave a message on the Business Office voicemail. We ask that you leave a clear message that include:

- Patient's full name;
- Date of birth;
- Name of emergency room facility;
- Date of service or admission;
- Reason for emergency;
- Working phone number.

ber.

The Business Office will call you the next business day following your notification. It is extremely important to leave a working phone number to contact you to get additional information.

Please note the 72-hour notification does not guarantee approval of payment. Case Management and/or the PRC Committee will review on a case-by-case basis and determine approval of payment, based on factors such as a life-threatening emergency room visit or if services were not available at Choctaw Health Center.

Any services that could have been provided at Choctaw Health Center, such as a common cold or flu, will not be approved for payment.

If you have more questions regarding the PRC 72-Hour notification requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Business Office at 601-389-4060.

Personal Health Record Is Here!

Choctaw Health Center (CHC) is pleased to announce the launching of the new Personal Health Record (PHR).

The PHR is a website where you can view and/or download your health information. You need to have access to the Internet or a data connection to use the PHR. You

.....see PHR, pg. 8

CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER

Main Telephone Number 601-389-4500
For Emergencies Call 911

Primary Care Department Hours	Rural Health Clinic Hours	Pharmacy Hours
Monday – Thursday 8am – 8pm (last sign in at 7:15pm) Friday 8am – 4:30pm (last sign in at 3:30pm)	Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm (All clinics open) Rotating Clinic Hours on Saturdays 8am – 12pm 1st Sat of the month: Conehatta 2nd Sat of the month: Bogue Chitto 3rd Sat of the month: Red Water 4th Sat of the month: Choctaw Health Center	Monday – Thursday 8am – 6pm Friday 8am – 5:30pm Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 9am – 11am

NO MORE EXCUSES

THERE ARE MANY PLACES TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE

SCHOOLS

PHARMACIES

RETAIL STORES

GROCERY STORE

PEDIATRICIAN'S OFFICE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WORKPLACE

MEDICAL CENTER

DRUG STORE

CLINICS

COMMUNITY CENTER

For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

THE CHOCTAW HEALTH CENTER PRIMARY CARE CLINICS & THE OUTLYING HEALTH CLINICS OF BOGUE CHITTO, CONEHATTA & RED WATER WILL BEGIN OFFERING THE ADULT & CHILDREN FLU VACCINES IN OCTOBER. CONTACT THE FOLLOWING FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bogue Chitto Clinic	601.656.5442
Conehatta Clinic	601.775.3446
Red Water Clinic	601.267.8368
Primary Care Clinic	601.389.4302
Public Health Services	601.389.4110

The Personal Health Record (PHR) is a website where you can view your health information. Your PHR is at:
<https://phr.ihs.gov>

PHR
Personal Health Record

You need to have access to the Internet or a data connection to use the PHR. You also need to sign up for your PHR.

What can you do with PHR?

- View your lab results
- Learn about your medications.
- Keep track of your health issues.
- View a list of your medications.
- Save a copy of your health information.
- Send an e-mail message to your health care team.
- Make sure the information in your medical record is correct.
- View a record of your immunizations.
- Share your health information with a caregiver or family member.

Is your health information safe?
Yes, your health information is secure. Be cautious when viewing or downloading your health information to a public computer. Always log out when you are finished looking at your PHR.

PHR
Personal Health Record

For more information, please call:

Health Information Management @
(601) 389-4187
(601) 389-4188

Or Visit:
Choctaw Health Center
Health Information Management
(3rd Floor)
210 Hospital Circle
Choctaw, MS 39350

<https://phr.ihs.gov>

From The Tooth Wisdom

*Submitted by the
Choctaw Health
Center Dental Staff*

We have been experiencing a high rate of broken appointments in the dental clinics. As a reminder, we have a Failed or Canceled Appointment Policy which everyone signs during their initial visit of the year. It states:

"To increase services to all patients, the following policy is in effect. You can be rescheduled only once. If you are charged with two failed appointments, you WILL NOT be scheduled for another appointment for at least six (6) months."

What is a Failed or Broken appointment?

- You do not come to the dental clinic for your appointment.
- When you sign in at the dental clinic 10 minutes or more after your appointment time.
- When you do not cancel your appointment at least one day (24 hours) before your appointment time.

What is a canceled appointment?

When the dental clinic is notified 24 hours in advance that the patient will not be able to keep their appointment. A new appointment will be scheduled at a more convenient time.

Of course, there is consideration for sickness or a death in the family. If you are unable to make your appointment, a call is appreciated. We appreciate you and look forward to seeing you at your appointment.

Suicide Prevention Month Observed

The following information was provided by the Choctaw Health Center's Behavioral Health Program.

Why Address

Suicide Prevention?

Many American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) communities experience an elevated suicide rate. In fact, suicide has a profound impact on the health of AI/AN individuals, families, & communities, with rates 1.7 times higher than the overall national average.

AI/AN young people ages 15-34 make up 64 percent of all suicides in Indian Country & is the second leading cause of death for this age range.

According to the 2007 CDC vital statistics, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all AI/AN age groups.

Despite the strengths of AI/AN families & communities, suicide continues to remain a devastating event.

What Are Risk Factors For Suicide Among AI/AN People?

Risk factors include mental health disorders & stigma, substance abuse, intergenerational & historical trauma, family history of suicide or violence, family disruption/domestic violence, history of suicide attempts, physical or terminal illness, hopelessness,

feeling alone, & community-wide issues.

What Are Protective Factors For AI/AN People?

Factors that protect AI/AN youth & young adults against suicidal behavior are a sense of belonging to one's culture, a strong tribal/spiritual bond, the opportunity to discuss problems with family or friends, feeling connected to family, positive emotional health, & tribal resources & services such as a supportive healthcare system which individuals & families can utilize when needed.

...continued next page

PHR continued from page seven

also need to sign up for your PHR.

What can you do with PHR?

- View your lab results.
- Learn about your

medications.

- Keep track of your health issues.
- View a list of your medications.
- Save a copy of your health information.

• Send an e-mail to your health care team.

• Make sure the information in your medical record is correct.

• View a record of your immunizations.

• Share your health information with a caregiver or family member.

Is your health information safe? Yes, your health information is secure. Be cautious when viewing or downloading your health information to a public computer. Always log out when you are finished looking at your PHR.

How to sign up for

your PHR:

Step 1: Register online at: <https://phr.ihs.gov>. Create a PHR account at "Register to use PHR."

Step 2: Meet your PHR Registrar at CHC's Health Information Management (3rd floor). Please bring a photo ID. PHR Registrar will activate your account.

Step 3: After you talk with the PHR Registrar, your PHR account will be ready. Login to the PHR and start viewing your health information.

For more information, call Health Information Management, Charlene Sam (601) 389-4187 or Abigail Sockey (601) 389-4188; or visit the CHC's Health Information Management (3rd floor) in Choctaw.

How to sign up for your PHR





Step 1: Create a PHR account

- Go to <https://phr.ihs.gov> in your web browser.
- Click the button labeled "Register to use PHR."
- Choose a username and password that you can remember.
- You will be asked to enter some information about yourself. When you are finished, you will get a message asking you to go to your hospital or clinic to finish the registration process.

Step 2: Meet your PHR Registrar

You will need to meet with the hospital or clinic's PHR Registrar. This person will activate your account. Please bring a photo ID if you have one.

Step 3: Login to the PHR

After you talk with the PHR registrar, your PHR account will be ready.

- Go to <https://phr.ihs.gov>.
- Enter your username and password.
- Select the health record you would like to view.
- You can now view your health information.

For more information, visit the Indian Health Service at <http://www.ihs.gov>

SUICIDE MYTHS & FACTS

• **Myth:** No one can stop a suicide, it is inevitable.

• **Fact:** *If people in a crisis get help they need, they will probably never be suicidal again.*

• **Myth:** Confronting a person about suicide will make them angry & increase the risk of suicide.

• **Fact:** *Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication & lowers the risk of an impulsive act.*

• **Myth:** Only experts can prevent suicide.

• **Fact:** *Suicide prevention is everybody's business & anyone can help prevent these strategies.*

• **Myth:** Suicidal people keep their plans to themselves.

• **Fact:** *Most suicidal people communicate their intent sometime during the week preceding their attempt.*

• **Myth:** Once a person decides to complete suicide, there is nothing anyone can do to stop them.

• **Fact:** *Suicide is the most preventable kind of death, & almost any positive action may save a life.*

Warning Signs For Suicide

Behavioral clues include:

• Previous suicide attempt (#1 predictor of suicide);

• Acquiring a gun or stockpiling pills;

• Co-occurring depression, moodiness, hopelessness (better predictor than depression);

• Putting personal affairs in order;

• Giving away prized possessions;

• Sudden interest or disinterest in religion;

• Drug or alcohol abuse, or relapse after a period of recovery;

• Unexplained anger, aggression & irritability.

Situational clues include:

• Being fired or expelled from school;

• A recent unwanted move;

• Loss of major relationship;

• Death of a spouse, child, or best friend, especially if by suicide;

• Diagnosis of a serious or terminal illness;

• Sudden unexpected loss of freedom/fear of punishment;

• Anticipated loss of financial security;

• Loss of a cherished therapist, counselor or

teacher;

• Fear of becoming a burden to others.

TIPS FOR ASKING THE SUICIDE QUESTION

• If in doubt, don't wait, ask the question;

• If the person is reluctant, be persistent;

• Talk to the person alone in a private setting;

• Allow the person to talk freely;

• Give yourself plenty of time;

• Have your resources handy; phone numbers, therapist's name & any other information that might help.

Remember: How you ask the question is less important than you asking it!

How Can We Prevent Suicide?
EVERYBODY'S responsibility, as well as

preventing related-suicidal behaviors. Take time to learn about the warning signs & get important information to connect those in crisis with the proper line of help.

When warning signs appear, it is critical to quickly connect the per-

son to supportive services. Do not leave that person alone if you suspect he/she may be suicidal. Listen openly & nonjudgmentally.

For more information, contact Choctaw Behavioral Health at 601-389-4150.

Zika Virus Update

KEEP CALM & EMBRACE BUG SPRAY



Zika is a viral disease that is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito. This mosquito is an aggressive daytime biter and prefers to live both indoors and outdoors close to people. Zika virus can cause illness that lasts several days or up to a week. Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly, as well as other severe fetal brain defects. Currently, there is no cure, vaccine, or direct treatment for Zika virus.

Symptoms	Transmission
Four out of five people infected with Zika virus do not experience any symptoms. Once a person has been infected, he or she is likely to be protected from future infections. - Fever - Rash - Joint Pain - Conjunctivitis (Red Eyes)	Anyone who lives in or travels to an area where Zika virus is found and has not been already infected with Zika virus can become infected. The virus is also transmitted: - From mother to fetus during pregnancy or at delivery - Through sex from an infected person to his or her sex partners - Through a blood transfusion

Zika virus has also been linked to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can start as weakness and tingling in the feet and legs that spreads to the upper body. Paralysis can occur.



Be Alert



As of August 2016, there have been 6 laboratory confirmed Zika virus cases transmitted by local mosquitoes in the state of Florida. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Zika Response plan, the outbreak is currently in phase level 3, confirmed multi-person local transmission. CDC has sent staff to the Miami-Dade County area to assist the state and local health departments with confirmed and suspected cases.

HOW TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

If possible, avoid travel to an area with Zika virus Stay indoors and use air conditioners, screen doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out Use environmental protection agency (EPA) approved insect repellents as directed	Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or buy permethrin-treated clothing - Do not apply directly to skin - Follow instructions carefully to determine how long and after how many washes the product will last Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants	SAFE SEX Use condoms to prevent transmission of the virus from an infected person to his or her partner
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Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites

To prevent mosquitoes from breeding, empty containers that hold standing water such as flower pots, pet dishes, buckets, toys, bird baths and discarded tires.

ZIKA VIRUS AND PREGNANT WOMEN

The greatest concern of Zika virus is the health complications it has on the unborn fetus. If a woman becomes infected with Zika virus, she can pass the virus to the fetus. The virus can cause microcephaly, which is an underdeveloped brain and skull, and other defects, such as, defects of the eyes, hearing problems, and impaired growth.

How Long Should You Wait Before Trying to Have a Baby When Living in an Area with Zika Transmission?	Women	Men
With Zika Symptoms	At least 8 weeks after symptoms	At least 6 months after symptoms start
No Zika Symptoms	Talk with doctor or health care provider	Talk with doctor or health care provider

For more information please contact your local health department or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Released on August 18, 2016



Choctaw SANE-SART News

Casey Willis, Choctaw Health Center (CHC) Emergency Room Supervisor, completed the Pediatric SANE Course at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson June 6-10.

The 40-hour course, supported by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is for experienced Emergency Department (ED) nurses that have previously taken the Adult/Adolescent SANE Course.

Nurses who completed the course are able to perform the nursing/forensic episode of care for the pediatric sexual assault victim in the ED.

Willis completed the Adult/Adolescent SANE Course in April 2012 and has an interest in serving pediatric victims of sexual assault.

The Choctaw SANE-SART Program sent CHC nurses Holly Coburn and Tammy Townsend to the Adult/Adolescent SANE course in Gulfport July 25-29.

.....see SANE-SART, pg. 15

PAB Holds First Board Meeting Of School Year

The Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) held their first meeting of the 2016-17 school year on Aug. 30. Eleven board members & 23 guests were present for the working lunch at the Ayipa Café. The meal was



LEFT, Pictured is August Outstanding Choctaw Educator Betty York (left) & PAB Chair Ray Willis. **CENTER**, From left, newly elected PAB Co-Chair Roseanna Thompson, PAB Chair Ray Willis & Board Member-At-Large Ann York. **RIGHT**, From left, Tribal Education Department Educational Planner Dr. Bill Brescia, Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & PAB Chair Ray Willis.

Cultural teachers introduced were, from left, Roseanna Thompson, Pandora Sockey, Penny Isaac, Renata Morris, Darlene Vaughn, & Jason Lewis. Not pictured is Melissa Farmer.



prepared by the Choctaw Tribal School's Culinary Arts students & staff.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Betty York as the August Outstanding Choctaw Educator.

Betty has been employed by the Tribe for 28 years. She spent 10 years working with the Social Services Program, administered through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, & currently works at the Choctaw Central Dormitory.

She attended elementary school at Standing Pine & graduated from Choctaw Central High School. She attended East Central Community College & earned

a BA Degree in Social Work from Mississippi State University in 1983.

Betty has a daughter, Tia, & three grandchildren.

Roseanna Thompson, Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration Coordinator, told the board her program was awarded a three-year cultural grant. She introduced her education partner, Jason Lewis, along with cultural teachers Renata Morris of Bogue Chitto Elementary, Darlene Vaughn of Conehatta Elementary, Pandora Sockey of Red Water Elementary, Penny Isaac of Standing Pine Elementary, & Melissa Farmer of Tucker Elementary.

...continued next page



DOECE Hosts Training

The Department of Early Childhood Education (DOECE) hosted an intensive training for all Early Head Start, Head Start teachers & Early Intervention Program staff during the month of July. The training included areas of Child Development, Choctaw Language, Health, Early Intervention, & specific areas such as literacy for infant & toddlers, music with infant & toddlers, working with developmentally delayed infant & toddlers, & practical behavior intervention. Trainers were from the Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Office, MSU Early Years Network, Department of Chahta Immi, Fire Management, Choctaw Tribal Schools Early Intervention Program, & DOECE staff.

CES Hosts Father, Daughter Banquet

On Thursday, Aug. 25, Conehatta Elementary School (CES) hosted their first father, daughter banquet. Fathers & daughters entered on a "red carpet" that led to a backdrop for picture taking.

After pictures, punch & cupcakes were served while everyone mingled & enjoyed the background music. Attendees then moved to the dining hall area where they were served a meal. After the meal, Cen-



tral High School boy's basketball coach Brent Farmer served as the guest speaker. Conehatta Elementary School Principal Brian Parkman then spoke with the group & showed a video of the book, *Dance Me, Daddy*.

At the conclusion of the video, the fathers & daughters returned to the atrium area for a dance. The night ended with an ice cream buffet as the girls received a "Princess" crown as a keepsake from the event.

Choctaw Adult Education Hosts Graduation On Aug. 25

*Submitted by the
Choctaw Adult
Education Program*

Thursday, August 25, 2016, was a day of celebration & inspiration for those who attended & participated in the Choctaw Adult Education Program's 2015-2016 GED Graduation Ceremony at the Silver Star Convention Center.

Family & friends gathered to honor those who worked diligently to earn their GED diplomas. This was a milestone worthy of honor

& celebration because achieving a GED creates opportunities for these graduates that simply did not exist before.

The theme for this year's ceremony, "*Imagine, Believe, Achieve*," was an encouraging reminder to have dreams & believe in yourself in order to achieve those dreams.

Guest speakers were Terry Ben, Workforce Development Director; Lola Parkerson, Pearl River Tribal Council member; & Rae Nell Vaughn, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Chief of Staff. Laura John, Adult Education Director, served as emcee.

They encouraged graduates & guests to dream, believe & continue their education so those big dreams can be achieved. They challenged everyone to use this opportunity to build a successful future.

The graduates were then presented a certificate of completion from the Choctaw Adult Education Program by the guest speakers.

Curtis Willis, Sr., of the Spirit of Life Christian Center, provided the invocation & benediction. The graduates, guests, & Choctaw Adult Education staff deeply appreciate their contribution to making this graduation ceremony a very special & moving experience.

However, the most important people attending the graduation ceremony



Members of the Choctaw Adult Education Class of 2015-2016 include (in no order) Cameron Overland, Emily Shoemake, Justiny Billy, Seth Gentry, Quendal Sam, Cedrony Stephens, Angel Steve, Cathy Thomas, Victoria Meely, Allyson Peters, Heather Tangle, Kyle Wesley, & Mark Jim.

ny were the graduates themselves. It was because of their dedication & diligence in pursuing their GED diplomas that this ceremony was possible.

Victoria Meely, Red Water GED graduate, was the student speaker. In a moving, inspirational, & heartfelt speech, she expressed appreciation for those who helped her along the way, congratulated the other graduates for their achievement, & encouraged everyone to continue learning & to turn negatives into positives.

Each graduate has his or her own remarkable story of success as they worked & struggled in the pursuit of an educational goal: getting a GED diploma. We can be inspired by their achievement because of their diligence, perse-

verance, & dedication as they dreamed, believed, & achieved their goal.

In her speech, Rae Nell Vaughn quoted Muhammad Ali who said, "*If my mind can conceive it, & my heart can believe it—then I can achieve it.*" She further explained that we need to keep moving forward by valuing ourselves & ignoring negativity.

The Choctaw Adult Education program encourages & helps Choctaw people do this. They provide adults who, for whatever reason, were

unable to complete their high school education with an opportunity to achieve educational advancement.

In order to fulfill this purpose, Choctaw Adult Education offers classes in all communities. If you would like to take advantage of this program & complete yours, contact Choctaw Adult Education at the Manpower Training Center by calling 601-650-1756 to find out when class meets in your community.



The U.S. & Choctaw flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard & the Southern Pine Singers & Dancers (above) entertained by performing songs & dances of encouragement.

Tribal Education Department Project Coordinator Lucretia Williams & Educational Planner Dr. Bill Brescia shared their goal for all programs to work together to increase graduation rates for Choctaw students.

Tribal members, administrators & teachers are encouraged to contact them with grant ideas or thoughts on how to make the school system better.

PAB members elected the following to board positions: Joy Alex, Pearl River Community representative; Ann York, Board Member-At-Large; Ray Willis, 2016-17 PAB Chair; & Roseanna Thompson, 2016-17 PAB Co-Chair.

The board will meet on Oct. 25. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.

Day of Activities, Fun Held in Choctaw

A day of fun and activities for the whole family was held on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Choctaw.

The Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted their annual Day for Kids event at the Pearl River Amphitheater from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Over 500 participants enjoyed games of bingo, face painting, cake walks, a rock climbing wall, several bounce houses, and prize drawings for each community. Two lucky grand prize drawing winners received brand new bicycles & lunch was provided.

Choctaw Indian Princess Breanna Isaac was in attendance to visit with the children and have their pictures taken with her.

Day for Kids is a national initiative that invites adults and kids alike to take one day to celebrate what it means to be a kid! The mission of Day for Kids is to establish a day to celebrate and honor American children through the gift of meaningful time.

"This event was a huge success and we are grateful to also have participation from other departmental programs. A big thank you goes to my staff for working together and displaying great teamwork," said Melissa Martinez, Director of Operations for Boys & Girls Club of the MBCI.

Research shows that when adults spend meaningful time with kids it helps them develop a positive self-image and a sense of belonging, usefulness and purpose. Now, more than ever, Day for Kids provides adults and kids an opportunity to take a break from their busy lives and celebrate the wonder of life and the fulfillment of spending time together.

From 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Department and Mississippi State University Extension Services hosted the 2016 Choctaw Wildlife Jamboree at Lake Pushmataha as hundreds came out to enjoy a day dedicated to the great outdoors.

Some of the activities included hourly door prizes, conservation booths, rabbitstick throw, bow & arrow shoot, wildlife tasting buffet & chili, canoe & boat rides, wildlife arts & crafts, facepainting, horse back riding, & a family scavenger hunt.

A new attraction to this year's jamboree was a presentation by Freedom Ranch's Birds of Prey.

The goal of the event was to promote wildlife conservation & outdoor recreational activities through a hands-on arena where all those in attendance enjoyed a taste of the outdoors.



Signs of Domestic Violence, Abuse

*Submitted by the
Family Violence &
Victim's Services*

Domestic violence & abuse can happen to

anyone, yet the problem is often overlooked, excused, or denied. This is especially true when the abuse is psychological, rather than physical.

Acknowledging signs of an abusive relationship is the first step to ending it. If you recognize the following warning signs & descriptions of abuse, reach out. Help is available.

Understanding Domestic Violence & Abuse

Domestic abuse (spousal abuse) occurs when one person in an intimate relationship or marriage tries to dominate & control the other person. Domestic abuse that includes physical violence is domestic violence.

Domestic violence & abuse are used to gain & maintain total control over you. An abuser doesn't "play fair" & uses fear, guilt, shame, & intimidation to wear you down & keep you under his or her thumb. The abuser may also threaten you, hurt you, or hurt those around you.

Domestic violence & abuse does not discriminate & occurs within all age ranges, ethnic backgrounds, & economic levels. While women are more commonly victimized, men are also abused—especially verbally & emotionally, although sometimes even physically as well.

Recognizing Abuse Is The First Step To Getting Help

Domestic abuse often escalates from threats & verbal abuse to violence. While physical injury

may be the most obvious danger, emotional & psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe.

Emotionally abusive relationships can destroy self-worth, lead to anxiety & depression, & make you feel helpless & alone. The first step to breaking free is recognizing the situation is abusive. Once you acknowledge the reality of the abusive situation, then you can get the help you need.

Signs Of An Abusive Relationship

There are many signs of an abusive relationship. The most telling sign is fear of your partner. If you feel like you have to walk on eggshells around your partner—constantly watching what you say & do in order to avoid a blow-up - chances are your relationship is unhealthy & abusive. Other signs may include a partner who belittles you or tries to control you, & feelings of self-loathing, helplessness, & desperation.

To determine whether your relationship is abusive, answer the questions below. The more "yes" answers, the more likely you're in an abusive relationship.

Signs You're In An Abusive Relationship

Your Inner Thoughts & Feelings

Do you:

- feel afraid of your partner much of the time?
- avoid certain topics

out of fear of angering your partner?

- believe you deserve to be hurt or mistreated?
- wonder if you're the one who is crazy?
- feel emotionally numb or helpless?

Your Partner's Belittling Behavior

Does your partner:

- humiliate or yell at you?
- criticize you & put you down?
- treat you so badly that you're embarrassed for your friends, family to see?
- ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments?
- blame you for their own abusive behavior?
- see you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?

Your Partner's Violent Behavior or Threats

Does your partner:

- have a bad & unpredictable temper?
- hurt you, or threaten to hurt or kill you?
- threaten to take your children away or harm them?
- threaten to commit suicide if you leave?
- force you to have sex?
- destroy your belongings?

Your Partner's Controlling Behavior

Does your partner:

- act excessively jealous & possessive?
- control where you go or what you do?
- keep you from seeing your friends or family?
- limit your access to money, the phone, or the car?

.....see FVVS, pg. 14



Rockin' Da Rez Held in Choctaw

The Pearl River Amphitheater in Choctaw was rockin' to the sounds of gospel music from local musicians on Friday, Sept. 23. The event, sponsored by the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee, featured area acts such as Nana Frazier & Choir, Caleb Willis, Psalms Trio, Deidre Tubby, Allen Winter, & The Crosbys.

FFVS continued from page thirteen

• constantly check up on you?

Physical Abuse & Domestic Violence

When people talk about domestic violence, they refer to the physical abuse of a spouse or intimate partner. Physical abuse is the use of physical force against someone to injure or endanger that person. Physical assault or battering is a crime, whether it occurs inside or outside the family. The police have the power & authority to protect you from physical attack.

Sexual Abuse Is Physical Abuse

Any situation in which you are forced to participate in unwanted, unsafe, or degrading sexual activity is sexual abuse. Forced sex, even by a spouse or intimate partner with whom you also have consensual sex, is an act of aggression & violence. Furthermore,

people whose partners abuse them physically & sexually are at a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed.

It is still abuse if...

• **Incidents of physical abuse seem minor** when compared to those you have read about, seen on TV, or heard other women talk about. There isn't a "better" or "worse" form of physical abuse; you can be severely injured as a result of being pushed, for example.

• **Incidents of physical abuse have only occurred one or two times in the relationship.** Studies indicate if your spouse/partner has injured you once, it is likely he will continue to physically assault you.

• **Physical assaults stopped when you became passive & gave up your right to express yourself as you desire,** move about freely & see others, & make deci-

sions. It is not a victory if you have to give up your rights as a person & partner in exchange for not being assaulted!

• **There has not been any physical violence.** Many women are emotionally & verbally assaulted. This can be as equally frightening & is often more confusing to try to understand.

Source: *Breaking the Silence Handbook*

Emotional Abuse: It's A Bigger Problem Than You Think

When people think of domestic abuse, they picture battered women physically assaulted. But not all abusive relationships involve violence. Just because you're not battered & bruised doesn't mean you're not being abused. Many men & women suffer from emotional abuse, which is no less destructive. Unfortunately, emotional abuse is often overlooked—

even by the person being abused.

Understanding Emotional Abuse

The aim of emotional abuse is to chip away at your feelings of self-worth & independence. If you're the victim of emotional abuse, you may feel that there is no way out of the relationship, or that without your abusive partner you have nothing.

Emotional abuse includes verbal abuse such as yelling, name-calling, blaming, & shaming. Isolation, intimidation, & controlling behavior also fall under emotional abuse. Abusers who use emotional or psychological abuse often throw in threats of physical violence or other repercussions if you don't do what they want.

You may think physical abuse is far worse than emotional abuse, since physical violence can send you to the hos-

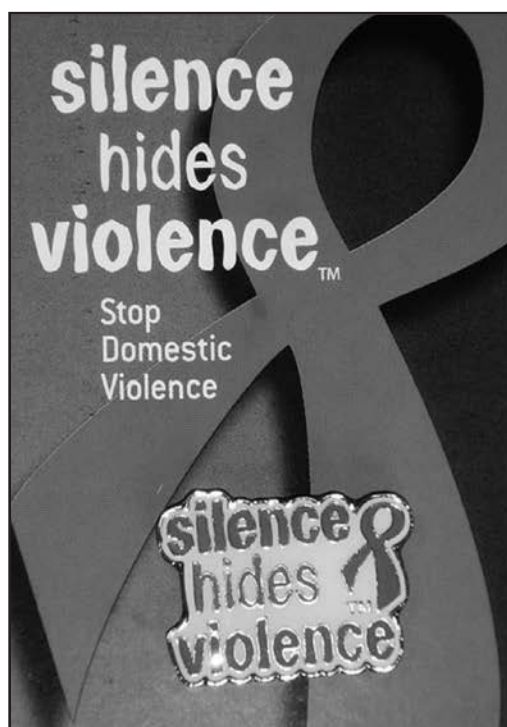
pital & leave you with scars. The scars of emotional abuse are very real, though, & they run deep. In fact, emotional abuse can be just as damaging as physical abuse—sometimes even more so.

Economic/Financial Abuse: A Subtle Form Of Emotional Abuse

An abuser's goal is to control you, & he or she will frequently use money to do so. Economic or financial abuse includes:

- Rigidly controlling your finances
- Withholding money or credit cards
- Making you account for every penny you spend
- Withholding basic necessities (food, clothes, medications, shelter)
- Restricting you to an allowance
- Preventing you from working or choosing

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 2016						Domestic Violence Awareness Month
1 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been physically abused by an intimate partner.	2 In the US an average of 20 people are abused by intimate partner.	3 On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 calls to DV hotlines.	4 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner.	5 Between 21-60% of victims of DV lost their jobs due to the abuse.	6 1 in 15 children are exposed to domestic violence each year.	7 90% of children exposed to DV are eyewitnesses to the violence.
8 Victims of DV are at a higher risk of developing addictions to	9 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the US have been raped in their lifetime.	10 19.3 million Women in the US have been stalked in their lifetime.	11 76.1% of physical abuse toward older adults is perpetrated by a family member.	12 5.1 million Men in the US have been stalked in their lifetime.	13 Domestic violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime in the US.	14 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.
15 The presence of a gun in a DV situation increases the risk of	16 Domestic violence affects everyone regardless of age, race, or gender.	17 The cost of domestic violence exceeds \$8.3 billion each year.	18 Only 1 out of every 24 cases of elder abuse is reported.	19 Each year almost 4 million older adults are victims of elder abuse or neglect.	20 Nearly 21% of female high school students have been abused by a	21 13.4% of male high school students have been abused by a partner.
22 A majority of elder sexual abuse cases involve female victims.	23 A 2013 study found that 26% of teens were victims of cyber dating abuse.	24 1 in 4 stalking victims contemplate suicide, and also	25 Approximately 50% of older adults with dementia are mistreated or	26 76% of women murdered by their partner were stalked first.	27 Only 33% of teen victims ever told anyone about their abuse.	28 There is a 30-60% chance that a child who witnesses DV will also be abused.
29 Video cameras or listening devices have been used to stalk 1 in 13 victims.	30 Of all the children sexually abused, the perpetrator is usually the parent	If you or someone you know is being abused, please call Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774, or write: MBCI FFVS, P.O. Box 6010, Choctaw, MS 39350				

your own career

- Sabotaging your job (making you miss work, calling constantly)
- Stealing from you or taking your money

Violent & Abusive Behavior Is The Abuser's Choice

Despite what many people believe, domestic violence/abuse is not due to the abuser's loss of control over his or her behavior. In fact, abusive behavior/violence is a deliberate choice made by the abuser in order to control you.

Abusers use tactics to manipulate you & exert their power:

- **Dominance** – Abusive individuals need to feel in charge of the relationship. They will make decisions for you & the family, tell you what to do, & expect you to obey without question. Your abuser may treat you like a servant, child, or even as his or her possession.
- **Humiliation** – An abuser will do everything he or she can to make you feel bad about yourself or defective in some way. After all, if you believe you're worthless & that no one else will want you, you're less likely to leave. Insults, name-calling, shaming, & public put-downs are all weapons of abuse designed to erode your self-esteem & make you feel powerless.
- **Isolation** – In order to increase your dependence on him or her, an abusive partner will cut you off from the outside world. He or she may

SANE-SART continued from page nine

The SANE course, an in-depth 40-hour course with hands-on experiences & supported by the DOJ, is for experienced ED nurses.

Nurses who complete the course are able to perform the nursing/forensic episode of care for the sexual assault victim in the ED.

Completion of both the SANE and Pediatric SANE courses enables nurses to prepare for a certification exam offered through the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

The course was presented in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, Office of the Attorney General, University of Mississippi Medical Center, School of Nursing (for the SANE course), and University of Mississippi Medical Center Children's Justice Center (for the Pediatric SANE course).

This is the first year the Pediatric SANE course was offered in Mississippi. The SANE course has been available in Mississippi for the past 15 years.

Both models have been very successful

as it provides a nurse with expertise and moves both adult and pediatric patients through the ED in a more efficient way. In cases that go to court, the physician is also freed from testifying while the nurse is specially trained to do so.

Congratulations to Casey Willis, Holly Coburn and Tammy Townsend!



Choctaw SANE-SART Program
A Program of the Department of
Family and Community Services
601-663-7796

keep you from seeing family or friends, or even prevent you from going to work or school. You may have to ask permission to do anything, go anywhere, or see anyone.

- **Threats** – Abusers commonly use threats to keep their partners from leaving or to scare them into dropping charges. Your abuser may threaten to hurt or kill you, your children, other family members, or even pets. He or she may also threaten to commit suicide, file false charges against you, or report you to child services.

- **Intimidation** – Your abuser may use a variety of intimidation tactics designed to scare you into submission. Such tactics include making threatening looks or gestures, smashing things in front of you, destroying property, hurting your pets, or putting weapons on display. The clear message is that if you don't obey, there will be

violent consequences.

- **Denial & blame** – Abusers are very good at making excuses for the inexcusable. They will blame their abusive & violent behavior on a bad childhood, a bad day, & even the victims of their abuse. Your abusive partner may minimize the abuse or deny that it occurred. He or she will commonly shift the responsibility on to you: Somehow, his or her violent & abusive behavior is your fault.

Abusers Control Their Behavior

- **Abusers pick & choose whom to abuse.** They don't insult, threaten, or assault everyone in their life who gives them grief. Usually, they save their abuse for the people closest to them, the ones they claim to love.

- **Abusers carefully choose when & where to abuse.** They control themselves until no one else is around to see their

abusive behavior. They may act like everything is fine in public, but lash out instantly as soon as you're alone.

- **Abusers are able to stop their abusive behavior when it benefits them.** Most abusers are not out of control. In fact, they're able to immediately stop their abusive behavior when it's to their advantage to do so (for example, when the police show up or their boss calls).

- **Violent abusers usually direct their blows where they won't show.** Rather than acting out in a mindless rage, many physically violent abusers carefully aim their kicks & punches where bruises & marks won't show.

Cycle Of Violence In Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse falls into a cycle of violence:

- **Abuse** – Your abusive partner lashes out with aggressive, belittling, or violent behav-

ior. Abuse is a power play designed to show you "who is boss."

- **Guilt** – After abusing you, your partner feels guilt, but not over what he's done. He's more worried about the possibility of being caught & facing consequences for his abusive behavior.

- **Excuses** – Your abuser rationalizes what he or she has done. The person may come up with a string of excuses or blame you for the abusive behavior—anything to avoid taking responsibility.

- **"Normal" behavior** – The abuser does everything he can to regain control & keep the victim in the relationship. He may act as if nothing has happened or may turn on the charm. This peaceful honeymoon phase may give the victim hope the abuser has really changed this time.

- **Fantasy & planning** – Your abuser begins to

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Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Through Legal Education

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services (MCLS), a provider of free legal aid since the late 1970's, has been a proud provider of free civil legal services to members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for the past three years through a grant by the Legal Services Corporation out of Washington, D.C.

MCLS's free legal aid is available to anybody who meets certain low income eligibility requirements based on the federal poverty level.

They provide assistance in areas such as collection defense, education issues, divorce, adoptions, deeds, guardianships, custody matters, preparation of Last Wills & Testaments, Social Security benefits, &

other areas.

MCLS does not handle criminal matters, personal injuries, workers compensation, or other matters restricted by the Legal Services Corporation.

If you have a legal issue, contact Choctaw Legal Defense & schedule an appointment to meet with an MCLS intake worker. MCLS staff is usually available for intake assistance on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Choctaw Legal Defense offices.

Persons can call the MCLS Meridian office toll free at 1-888-631-9161, or the call center at 1-800-498-1804.

MCLS also provides information on certain topics that benefit Tribal members. MCLS hosts a

Community Law Day with Choctaw Legal Defense during the Spring and Fall each year and invites persons to come learn about their legal rights so they will less likely stumble into a legal pitfall.

The next Community Law Day is Thursday, October 27, from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Golden Moon VIP Room. Attorneys & others will talk about issues, such as children & family services, new adoption laws, probate of Wills, bankruptcy, & blood quantum issues. Everyone is invited.

Representatives will also meet with individuals in private to discuss their particular legal issue. In addition, MCLS will provide a continental breakfast, lunch and door prizes.

FVVS continued from page fifteen

fantasize about abusing you again. He spends a lot of time thinking about what you've done wrong & how he'll make you pay. Then he makes a plan for turning the fantasy of abuse into reality.

• **Set-up** – Your abuser sets you up & puts a plan in motion, creating a situation where he can justify abusing you.

Your abuser's apologies & loving gestures in between the episodes of abuse can make it difficult to leave. He may make you believe you are the only person who can help him, that things will be different this time, & that he truly loves you. However, the dangers of staying are very real.

Source: *Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service*

Recognizing Warning Signs Of Domestic Violence & Abuse

It's impossible to know what goes on behind closed doors, but there are signs & symptoms of emotional abuse & domestic violence. If you witness any warning signs of abuse, take them very seriously.

Warning Signs Of Domestic Abuse

People who are being abused may:

- Seem afraid or anxious to please their partner;
- Go along with everything their partner says & does;
- Check in often with their partner to report where they are & what

they're doing;

- Receive frequent, harassing phone calls from their partner;
- Talk about their partner's temper, jealousy, or possessiveness.

Warning Signs Of Physical Violence

People who are being physically abused may:

- Have frequent injuries, with the excuse of "accidents";
- Frequently miss work, school, or social occasions without explanation;
- Dress in clothing designed to hide bruises or scars (e.g. wearing long sleeves in the summer or sunglasses indoors).

Warning Signs Of Isolation

People who are being isolated by their abuser may:

- Be restricted from seeing family & friends;
- Rarely go out in public without their partner;
- Have limited access to money, credit cards, or the car.

Psychological Warning Signs Of Abuse

People who are being abused may:

- Have very low self-esteem, even if they used to be confident;
- Show major personality changes (e.g. an outgoing person becomes withdrawn);
- Be depressed, anxious, or suicidal.

Speak Up If You Suspect Domestic

...continued next page

Prevent Elder Abuse



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774



REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

WeTiP inc.
Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)
or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a REWARD, up to \$1,000!

Violence Or Abuse**DO'S & DON'TS****Do:**

- Ask if something is wrong;
- Express concern;
- Listen & validate;
- Offer help;
- Support his/her decisions.

Don't:

- Wait for him/her to come to you;
- Judge or blame;
- Pressure him/her;
- Give advice;
- Place conditions on your support.

Adapted from: *NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence*

If you suspect someone you know is being abused, speak up! If you're hesitating—telling yourself that it's none of your business, you might be wrong, or the person might not want to talk about it—keep in mind that expressing your concern will let the person know that you care & may even save his or her life.

Talk to the person in private & let him or her know that you're concerned. Point out the things you've noticed that make you worried. Tell the person that you're there, whenever he or she feels ready to talk. Reassure the person that you'll keep whatever is said between the two of you, & let him or her know that you'll help in any way you can.

Remember, abusers are very good at controlling & manipulating their victims. People who have been emotionally abused or battered

are depressed, drained, scared, ashamed, & confused. They need help to get out, yet they've often been isolated from their family & friends. By picking up on the warning signs & offering support, you can help them escape an

abusive situation & begin healing.

From HelpGuide.org

If you or someone you

know is a victim of domestic violence & need help, contact Family Violence & Victim's Services at 601-650-1774.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

Medallion Workshop

On Friday, Aug. 6, the Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) sponsored a medallion workshop, under the coordination of Lorena Alex, at the Standing Pine Facility Building from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop started with five participants but throughout the day more interested tribal members showed up. Eventually, the work-

shop turnout was wonderful.

Consultants included Nancy Vaughn, Everett Sam & Arita McMillan. CAP staff members Trudy Jimmie, Lorena Alex & May McGeisey also provided instruction.

Anita Winstead of Fashions & Fabrics was also there with supplies & materials available for purchase.

Blow Gun, Dart

ABOVE, During the blow gun & dart making workshop, Jameson Williams (seated left) watches the participants as they remove impurities from the cotton. In the background, participants are having target practice with their completed blow gun.

RIGHT, Everett Sam (center) observes a student working on her medallion.

**Workshop**

For educational purposes on Choctaw history, a blow gun & dart workshop was sponsored by the CAP in the Tucker Community on Aug. 9.

The cultural activity was coordinated by Casey Bigpond with consultants Elizabeth John of Red Water, Garrison Joe of Pearl River & Jamieson Williams of Conehatta. Youth Opportunity Program participants DeAundre Williams & Emerson Billy also assisted with the class.

Blow guns & darts were used for small game hunting to supplement food for Choctaws in the past. In modern times, only a few Choctaws still create the blow guns & darts for hunting. Most are used for demonstration & recreational purposes.

Headband Making Workshop in Bogue Homa

The CAP staff traveled to the Bogue Homa Community on Tuesday, Aug. 16 to conduct a headband making workshop. Twenty participants took part in the workshop. Trudy Jimmie, May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, consultant Rowena Willis, & Lorena Alex served as instructors for the session.

Choctaw Drum Making

Over the past several months, the CAP hosted a series of Choctaw Drum making workshops for tribal members. The workshops are a part of the program's special revitalization effort called the "Choctaw Drum Project."

The most recent drum making activity was conducted on Aug. 22. Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond coordinated the event & was assisted by

see DCI NEWS, pg. 18



CAP Community Outreach Coordinator Lorena Alex (standing) shows Cheyenne Willis how to sew diamonds on her headband.



CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

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SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE
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IN MEMORIAM

VICKIE ANN STEVE FARMER

Funeral service for Vickie Ann Steve Farmer, 51, was held on Saturday, September 10, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Farmer passed away on Sept. 7 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jackson.

She was a teacher assistant for over 20 years

at Conehatta Elementary then Tucker Elementary School. She enjoyed beading & being with family & friends.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Farmer, Sr.; daughter, Alexis Farmer; sons, Arrion Williamson & Bill Farmer, Jr.; mother, Nancy Willis; father, Robert Steve; sisters, Linda Martinez, Kathy McMillan & Dollianne Willis; brothers, Gary Chickaway, Edward Humble, Brian Willis, & Rodney Steve; & a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, rela-

tives, & friends.

RITA PEARL BILLY STEVE

Funeral service for Rita Pearl Billy Steve, 60, was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, from the Red Water Facility Building. Rev. Jason Martin & Rev. Mike Ainsworth officiated.

Burial was in the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Steve passed away on Sept. 9 at Neshoba County General Hospital.

She enjoyed being with family & cooking.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Mable Billy; an infant brother, Earl Billy, Jr.; grandparents; a grandson; five aunts; four uncles; & a nephew.

Survivors include her husband, Peter Steve; daughters, Melina John & Marion Comby; son, Landon John; father, Earl Billy; sisters, Beatrice Steve, Brenda Isaac & Joan Thompson; a brother, Alexander Billy; an aunt; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives & friends.

...continued next page

DCI NEWS continued from page seventeen

Garland Bell, Jr., who served as instructor.

The drum project has been made possible

through a special funding awarded to Cultural Affairs in November 2015 by the MBCI Trib-

al Administration under the leadership of Chief Phylliss J. Anderson.

Orientation For Choctaw Language Teachers

The Choctaw Language Program partnered with the Division of Schools to host an orientation on Aug 29-31 for Choctaw Language Teachers. Teachers included Renata Morris of Bogue Chitto

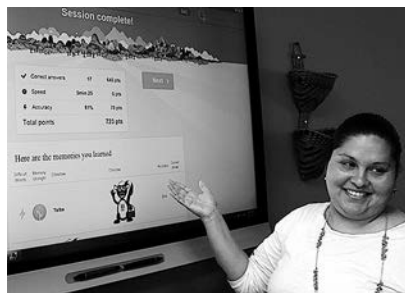
(Bók Chito) Elementary; Penny Isaac of Standing Pine (Tiak Hikíya) Elementary, Pandora Sockey of Red Water (Oka Homma) Elementary, & Darlene Vaughn of Conehatta (Koni Hata) Elementary.

Each teacher has their own Choctaw Language classroom & will serve Pre-K, Kindergarten, second grade, & third grade classes for the 2016-2017 school year.



ABOVE, Taylor York (left) & Alan Martin thin out the interior part of their drum shells.

RIGHT, Choctaw Language Teachers & Annopa Tikbishtiya Grant team are learning about the Memrise Online Language Activity. Pictured left is Renata Morris as she gives a demonstration of the Memrise activity. Right, the language program also provided teachers with



chanting sticks & rabbit sticks so teachers will be able to teach the language using authentic Choctaw materials.

SCOTT GRADY JOHN

Funeral service for Scott Grady John, 46, was held on Monday, September 19, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Willie Solomon, Jr. & Bro. Raymond Johnson officiated.

Burial was in the New Caanan Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. John passed away on Sept. 15 at his residence in Memphis, TN.

He was preceded in death by his parents,

Grady John & Nettie Solomon John; a sister, Megan John; & a nephew.

Survivors include his son, Alex Pitsch; sisters, Sylvia John, Sandra Thompson & Shelly Bell; brothers, Willie Solomon, Sr. & Jerry John; & a host of relatives & friends.

SHERYL L. MARTINEZ

Funeral service for Sheryl L. Martinez, 52, was held on Friday, September 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Augustine Palimattam officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Martinez passed away on Sept. 20 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She enjoyed socializing, listening to music, dancing, beading, playing bingo, & fishing with her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tinsley & Lonie Davis Tubby; sisters, Angela Tubby, Matilda Tubby & Valarie Tubby; & a half-brother, Danny Anderson, Sr.

Survivors include her husband, Vincent Martinez; sisters, Jennifer McMillan & Janice Pedraza; a brother, Harold Tubby; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SUSIE HENRY

Funeral service for Susie Henry, 97, was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Bro. Gary Chickaway & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bell-Henry Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Henry passed away on Sept. 24 at the Choctaw Health Center in Choctaw.

She was a Baptist by faith & enjoyed canning preserves, gardening, fishing, quilting, & collecting recipies.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Albert & Martha Henry; sisters, Beulah Tubby, Nettie Henry & Katie McKinney; half-sister, Gussie Henry; brothers, Elijah Henry, Melvin Henry & I.D. Henry; grandparents; a niece; & two great-nieces.

Survivors include her nieces, Martha Henry

& Mavis Hickman; & a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces, great-great nephews, & relatives.

HAZEL WILLIS

Funeral service for Hazel Frazier Willis, 82, was held on Thursday, September 29, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Frazier Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on Sept. 26 at her residence.

She was a member of Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. She was a nurse's assistant then a cook at Pearl River & Bogue Chitto Elementary Schools. She enjoyed cooking, attending gatherings & listening & singing Choctaw hymns.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clint & Josie Tubby Frazier; a daughter, Cindy Willis Mingo; a son, Vandell Willis; sisters, Ida Mae Frazier & Inez Henry; & a brother, Gaston Frazier.

.....see OBITs, pg. 20

Come and Worship with us



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10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/
Family Ministry Class

*To the Jews who had believed him,
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teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

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*Happy Belated
Big Birthday to my
sister, Shirley Shoe-
make, on June 9. We
love you & thanks*

for always being there for us. From your sisters & Harold Jr., Hilbert, Katie, Derrick Sr., Devon, & Paneshia.

*Happy Belated Birthday to Frankie Farmer on July 4! From
your wife of four years, Stephania Farmer.*

Happy Birthday to "Sudie Booty." Don't over do it "sis." Haha, much love though! From Mary & Derek Thompson.

*Happy Belated Birthday to April D. Lewis on Aug. 14, from
your husband & family.*

Happy Belated Birthday to my son, Mckenley L. Cotton, on Sept. 4. Love from Moma Karene... We wish a Happy Birthday to our brother, Mckenley! From Jon Kenzie & April, your uncle, & the Cotton family in B.C. We love you!

Happy Birthday to my two grandsons, Danny Ray on Sept. 19 & Rodney Ray, Jr., on Sept. 26, from Grandma Morris.



Places Fourth In Softball Tournament

Congratulations to the MS Chata Ohoyos who placed fourth in the women's softball tournament in Tahlequah, OK. Team members include, front row from left, Brooklyn Bell, Caylin Nickey, Danita Willis, Renaysia Polk, Elishia Thompson; back row, Savannah Galvan, Lila Willis, Thomasina Lindsey, Tamaran Johnson, coach Mary Jim, Jada Sockey, & coach Norma Willis. Not pictured is Laka Anderson.

OBITS continued from page nineteen

Survivors include a son, Timmy Willis; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

CURTIS RAY BELL

Funeral service for Curtis Ray Bell, 43, was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Indian Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue
Chitto Community Cemetery.

John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on Sept. 15 at his residence in Clearlake Oaks, California.

He enjoyed playing washers,
fishing & being with his family.

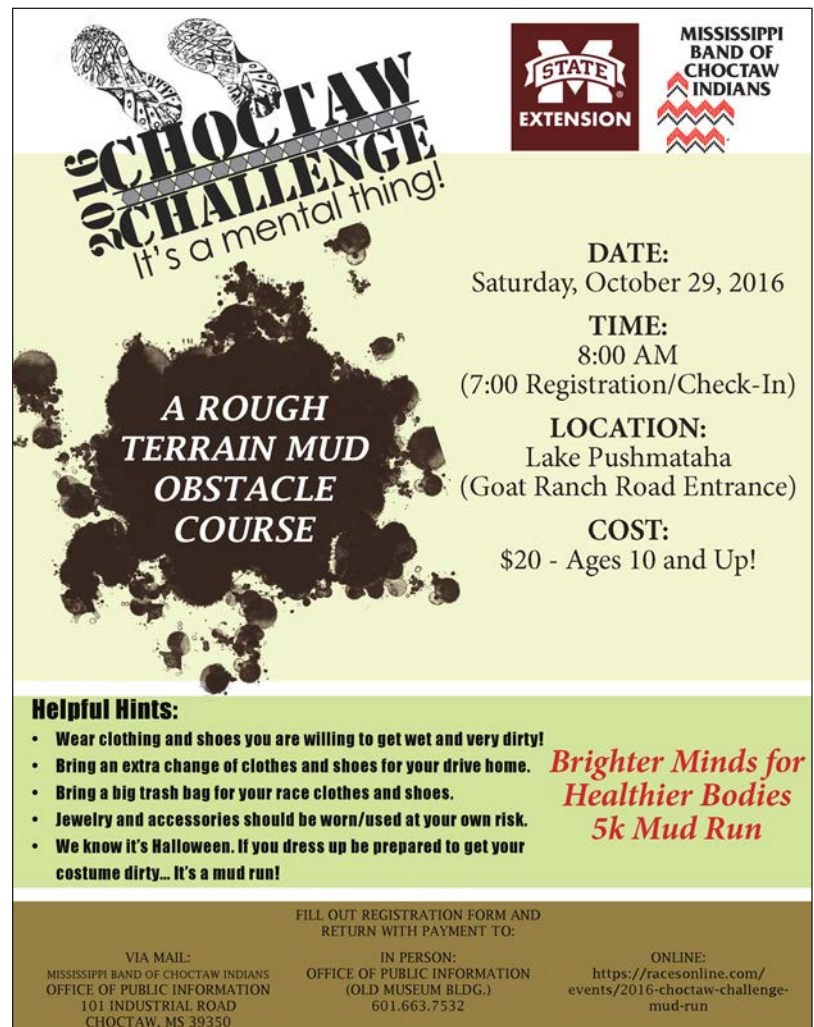
He was preceded in death by his father, Royce Bell, Sr.; sister, Mary Bell; & a grandmother, Mary Wickson.

Survivors include daughters, Ariel Bell & Alma Frazier; mother, Alma Bell; sisters, Debra Bell, Evalene Clem-

**CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY
NEWS**

SEPTEMBER 2016

© 2016 MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



mons & Evelyn Bell; a brother, Royce Bell, Jr.; four grandchildren; a companion, Jeri Thom-

Congratulations!

2016 STATE CHAMPIONS

Choctaw Central



**CLASS 3A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016**

Lady Warriors

PRES Students At Final Harvest Of White House Kitchen Garden

Two students from Pearl River Elementary School (PRES) recently had the opportunity to visit the White House & meet the President & First Lady of the United States.

Fourth graders Rhiannon Willis, daughter of Ria Willis, & Ajay Lewis, son of Shavon Willis and Adam Lewis, were invited to work alongside First Lady Michelle Obama picking fruits & vegetables in her final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on the south part of the White House lawn on Oct. 6.

President Barack ..see HARVEST, pg. 6

Obama made a surprise appearance & talked with the participants.

Also in attendance for the event included:

Kjell Lindgren, NASA Astronaut;

Alonzo Mourning, seven-time NBA All-Star & member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition;

Ashanti, singer/songwriter & actress;

Sesame Street's Elmo & Rosita;

Donna Martin, RDN, Director, Burke County School Nutrition Program, & President-elect

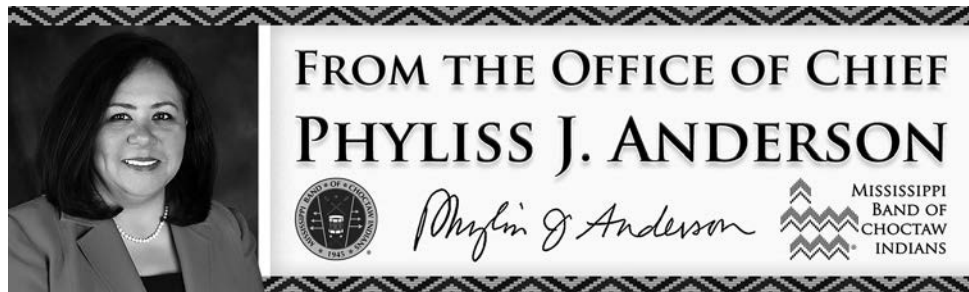


Willis Crowned 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen

Choctaw Central High School senior Rebekah Willis was crowned the 2016 Homecoming Queen during halftime of the Choctaw Central-Southeast Lauderdale football game on Sept. 30 at Warrior Stadium. Pictured from left is escort/grandfather Kirby Willis, homecoming queen Rebekah Willis & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.



PRES students Rhiannon Willis & Ajay Lewis, along with select students from the Washington, D.C. area, pose with President Barack Obama & First Lady Michelle Obama and special guests during the final harvest of the White House Kitchen Garden on Oct. 6.



Halito!

The change in the season is a great welcome and I hope everyone is enjoying all of the fall activities happening across our tribal communities. It is nice to experience the milder than usual temperatures, especially the coolness in the early morning and late evening hours.

Football and cross country seasons have ended, and eagerly we are looking forward to Warrior and Lady Warriors basketball and soccer. It is very true our young athletes get a huge boost from the fans, therefore whenever possible, I encourage you to come out to these events and support our talented student athletes.

CCHS Tailgate

On Friday, October 21, and kicking off the

last home game for the Warriors, I hosted a tailgate event for all CCHS football fans. It was great to see everyone who came out to enjoy food, fellowship, prizes and fun.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked very hard to make this a successful event. I look forward to hosting this annual event next football season!

Read Aloud Month

Throughout the month of October, I participated in Read Aloud Month by visiting each of the Tribal elementary schools and reading to students.

I was greeted very warmly by everyone at each school, and I greatly enjoyed visiting with some of our youngest and brightest Tribal members. My hope is

that we all take time to read aloud to children whenever possible and become great examples for the love of reading and learning.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Activities were held in October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention Month. On October 4, the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team held a Pink Out game during Senior Night. Three breast cancer survivors were recognized and threw out the ceremonial first-pitch to the three seniors on the team.

On October 7, the Warriors football team held a Pink Balloon Release and Pink Out game to honor the fighters, survivors and loved ones affected by breast cancer. I appreciate the organizers of these activities for their efforts, and thank you to everyone who participated.

Breast cancer is the



Chief Anderson participated in Read Aloud Month during October as she visited & read to a class at each Tribal elementary school.

most common cancer among women in the U.S. and the most frequently diagnosed cancer in the world. Although it is rare, men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Early detection and effective treatment are very important in the battle against this disease.

For more information or questions about breast cancer, I encourage you to contact the Choctaw Health Center's Public Health Services at (601) 389-4110.

ECCC Alumni of the Year

I was humbled to be honored by my alma mater, East Central Community College, as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year. Fellow Alumnus of the Year honoree

included Prentice Copeland (Class of 1949) of Philadelphia, and new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) of Decatur and Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997) of Gluckstadt.

ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart presented each of us a beautiful copper engraved plaque with our likeness that will be displayed on the East Central campus in Decatur, Mississippi.

A day full of momentous events was planned, ending with the ECCC Warriors Homecoming football game against Hinds Community College.

My success has been made possible through the support of our trib-

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should

be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.



Chief Anderson poses with the Choctaw Central Cheerleaders during the tailgate event prior to the Choctaw Central-Philadelphia football game on Oct. 21.



Receiving special recognition at East Central Community College's 2016 Homecoming celebration held Saturday, Oct. 15, were (from left) Prentice Copeland (Class of 1949), Alumnus of the Year, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson (Class of 1994), Alumna of the Year, & new Athletic Hall of Fame members Lynn Russell Hayes (Class of 1975) & Kendrick Clancy (Class of 1997). The awards presentations were made at the annual Alumni Luncheon held in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria. (EC Photo)

al members and by the many opportunities afforded me during my tenure at ECCC. I am so proud to accept and share this honor with my fellow Tribal members.

USET Conference

The semi-annual United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) conference was held in Cherokee, North Carolina, hosted by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. It is always beneficial to get together with fellow USET member tribes and gain valuable insights on issues and challenges that we face as Native Americans.

At the conference, I was honored to meet the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault, II. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to lead a peaceful and widely followed protest against the disreputable Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

Chairman Archambault spoke on behalf

of his people and shared some of his thoughts and perspectives.

"We have received a lot of support from indigenous people across the world. There is a rising in Indian Country and I feel it's a spirit that has been awakened throughout the world when it comes to indigenous people and indigenous land. I believe it's because of the infringement on our rights. We have always felt like there isn't much we can do but this experience and the unity at Standing Rock has helped me learn there is something we can do. Together we can make enough noise to change and make a difference."

This gathering and the inspiring words of Chairman Archambault are a true testament to the USET slogan "There is strength in unity."

We thank the Chairman for his leadership. This protest is the largest uprising of American In-



Choctaw Central High School hosted events in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness & Prevention Month. **ABOVE**, On Oct. 4, the CCHS Lady Warriors softball team honored cancer survivors Melanie Benn, Louisa Bell & Linda Peoples as they threw out the ceremonial first pitch during Senior Night. **BELOW**, On Oct. 7, the Choctaw Health Center & the Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians sponsored a Pink Out Game to Tackle Breast Cancer event prior to the Choctaw Central-Kemper County football game at Warrior Stadium. All those in attendance were encouraged to wear pink in support of breast cancer fighters, survivors & loved ones taken. Prior to kickoff, a victory line assembled on the field as pink balloons were released into the sky.



dian Tribes in American History and on behalf of MBCI I am proud to have sent our support on this issue. Let's keep the people of Standing Rock Tribe in our thoughts and prayers.

Homecoming

On Friday, September 30th, Choctaw Central High School held its annual Homecoming celebration, which included a parade and a ceremony during the halftime portion of the Warriors versus Southeast Lauderdale Tigers football game. I enjoyed being in the parade and seeing all of the entries on display.

Parade winners included: MBCI Tribal Administration (1st Place) and Choctaw Fire Department (2nd Place)

in the Tribal Program Category; Southern Pine Drum Group (1st Place) in the Non-Tribal Program Category; and Bogue Chitto Elementary School (1st Place), Pearl River Elementary School Princesses and Braves (2nd Place) and Department of Early Childhood Education (3rd Place) in the School/Education Category.

During halftime of the football game, I was honored to crown Senior Maid Rebekah Willis as the 2016 CCHS Homecoming Queen.

Congratulations to the parade winners, and the CCHS faculty and Homecoming Court on a job well done!

Special Olympics Win

Congratulations to the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics on their gold medal wins in Unified Flag Football and Bocce competitions at a recent event held at Camp Shelby. These teams are a unified group of special education and general education students from Choctaw Central and Leake Central.

Gold medal flag football team members from CCHS are Danta Cotton, Terrance Thomas, Allen Sockey, Demarco Thomas, Jerrick McMillan, Gunnar Tubby and Trevor York.

Bringing home the gold medal in

....see **LETTER**, pg. 4



CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION REVIEW

The following ordinances & resolutions were submitted to the Choctaw Tribal Council for consideration. Listed below is a brief summary & action taken.

Individuals wishing to request a resolution and/or its attachment must have a DOCUMENT REQUEST FORM com-

pleted & submitted to the Policy & Legislative Office. For more information, call 601-650-7486.

REGULAR CALL MEETING OCT. 11, 2016

Resolution CHO 17-001, confirming appointments to the Tribal Election Committee, was ADOPTED 16 YES

(R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chickaway, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S. Johnson, W. McMillan, H. Nickey, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (D. McClelland).

Resolution CHO 17-002, approving FY 2017 Budgets for Choctaw Residential Center Enterprise, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-003, authorizing a Distribution of Tribal Funds, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-004, authorizing the Department of Family & Community Services to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Family Violence Prevention Program, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-005, approving a Memorandum of Understanding between the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) & the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI)

...continued next page

NOTICE

HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, and the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, and our office is committed to making sure all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies and departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We look forward to working with and assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you and your family members receive all rights and privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

LETTER continued from page three

Bocce competitions were CCHS students Raven McMillan and Tonya Billie. Proudly, Danta Cotton was also

selected to participate in the Special Olympics "Egg Bowl" in Starkville!

These students have

shown great determination, skill and teamwork, and we are so

...continued next page



On Nov. 3, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson hosted a Breakfast of Champions event for teams that won their respective sport championships. **ABOVE**, Choctaw Central special education & general education students who won gold medals in the Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics' unified flag football & bocce competitions were honored. **BELOW**, The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors slow-pitch softball team were honored for their Class 3A state championship they won on Oct. 22 in Ridgeland.



confirming a waiver of potential conflict of interest, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-006, granting authority to the Office of Utilities Management to construct a new potable water storage tank on certain tract of land in the Bogue Chitto Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-007, applying for a 2016 Tribal Energy Development Capacity ("TEDC") Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPT-

ED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-008, applying for a 2016 Energy & Mineral Development Program ("EDMP") Grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-009, approving a site lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Standing Pine Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-010, approving a site

lease for a proposed housing subdivision for Choctaw Housing Authority in the Crystal Ridge Community, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-011, approving the 2016-2017 Wildlife Proclamation to regulate hunting & fishing on Tribal lands, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-012, approving Tribal Enrollments, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-013, approving the relinquishment of membership of a Tribal member, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-014, approving increase in blood degree and/or name change for previously enrolled Tribal members, was ADOPTED 16 YES; 0 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-015, amending Title IX of the Choctaw Tribal Code, was ADOPTED 15 YES (*R. Anderson, R. Bell, C. Ben, T. Chick-away, K. Edwards, R. Henry, Sr., R. Isaac, S.*

Johnson, W. McMillan, L. Parkerson, R. Sockey, B. Steve, J. Wesley, S. Willis, & D. Wilson); 1 NO (*H. Nickey*); 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-016, placing Blackmon & Blackmon, PLLC Law Firm on the list of attorneys authorized to perform legal services for the MBCI, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

Resolution CHO 17-017, requiring the Secretary-Treasurer to execute delegations of authority, was ADOPTED 15 YES; 1 NO; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT.

very proud of their accomplishments.

I also want to express my appreciation to their wonderful coaches, Amanda Reed from Choctaw Tribal Schools and Kris Upchurch from Leake Central, for supporting these amazing students. Team coaches have worked tirelessly with our students to demonstrate the power of positivity, believing in themselves and working to achieve goals.

This group is truly an inspiration to many and I offer my whole-hearted congratulations!

Softball

Championships

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, the Lady Warriors Slow-Pitch Softball team traveled to Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland, Mississippi, to take on the Mooreville Lady Troopers for the state title. The cham-

pionship was determined on a best-of-three games format.

The first game ended on a close 6-5 victory for the Lady Warriors. The second game was a strong showing for the girls, and they won the game and clinched the championship with a 13-2 victory. Congratulations to the Lady Warriors, Class 3A MHSAA State Champions!

I also commend the Neshoba Central Lady Rockets and the Newton County Lady Cougars for their championship wins. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians celebrates all of these players' dedication, commitment and team work.

CHC Anniversary

I want to congratulate the Choctaw Health Center on its 40th year of exceptional service to our Choctaw people.

Many successes have been accomplished over the years, including a historic milestone last March with the opening of the new Choctaw Health Center facility.

We have also expanded services in many of the departments. But we cannot stop there. I remain dedicated to ensuring that the Tribe continues its efforts to provide the best quality health care for all Tribal members.

Choctaw Community Fund

Once again, we are encouraging everyone to contribute to the Choctaw Community Fund (CCF). You can either make a one-time donation to the fund or donate your "fair share" through payroll deduction. Your fair share amounts to less than one-half of one percent of your annual income.

For example, if you earn \$20,000 a year, your fair share would be a little less than \$2 a week.

When you donate to the CCF, you are contributing money to community organizations such as the Choctaw Veterans Committee and the Boys and Girls Club. Also, funds from the CCF are used to provide assistance to community members in emergency situations, such as the loss of a home due to a fire.

The CCF needs your support, and I hope all of you will do your part in making sure that we raise as much money as we can for this beneficial program.

Closing

I urge everyone to make their preparations for the cold temperatures this fall and winter. I know that it's not always easy to predict

the unpredictable Mississippi weather on any given day. However, we do know that eventually we will have some very cold, sometimes freezing days.

Make sure your heating appliances have been checked, are in good working condition and are being used as intended. Always keep an eye out for our elders and others who live alone and who may need extra assistance.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming holiday activities. We will send out information on these events through Tribal email, website and social media. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

Resort Associates Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The Central Magnolias affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure recognized Pearl River Resort with the Spirit of Promise Corporate award for its continuous

support of breast cancer awareness and research.

Resort associates showed their support of the non-profit organization as they donated \$14,053 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"It is wonderful how the Pearl River Resort family come together each year in support of this great cause," stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort.



"This is our fourth year having these activities, and I truly admire the love shown to those affected and the outpouring of support in finding a cure."

Each year, the Resort gives its associates an opportunity to get involved with the activities: "Paint the Promenade Pink" and "Buttons for the Cause."

During "Paint the Promenade Pink," hundreds of associates wrote their name, a loved one's name or a positive message on pink ribbon decals. These beautiful symbols were displayed on the windows of the Silver Star Promenade.

Associates also provided generous donations and received a "Hope. Faith. Cure." button and shirt during "Buttons for the Cause."

For more information on Pearl River Resort, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit www.pearlriverresort.com.

HARVEST continued from page one

of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics;

Al Roker, The Today Show;

Cathy Burns, President, Produce Marketing Association;

Will Allen, Farmer, Founder & CEO of Growing Power;

José Andrés, Chef & Entrepreneur;

Sam Kass, Acre Ven-

ture Partners & Founder of Trove; and

Bill Yosses, Founder, Kitchen Garden Laboratory.

The Choctaw Health Center Diabetes Prevention Program & PRES participate in the **Let's Move! in Indian Country** (LMIC) project, in conjunction with the First Lady's **Let's**

Move! initiative to bring together leaders, educators, medical professionals, parents, & others in a nationwide effort to address the challenge of childhood obesity.

Indian Health Service LMIC Coordinator Gale Marshall (Oklahoma Choctaw) worked closely with the Office of the First Lady & the Special Diabetes Program

for Indians to reach out to the Diabetes Prevention Program & select students for the Kitchen Garden project.

Rhiannon & Ajay not only represented the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, but all Native tribes who participate in the LMIC project. PRES Teacher Assistant Shavon Willis served as chaperone.

They were interviewed by Cronkite News Arizona PBS from the Hopi/Navajo Nation & visited the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Monument, Lincoln Memorial, National World War II Memorial, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, & the Department of Interior.

LMIC seeks to improve the health of American Indian & Alaska Native children, who are affected by childhood obesity at some of the highest rates in the country.

To address the health crisis that young American Indians & Alaska Natives are facing, Tribal governments, Urban



Rhiannon Willis & Ajay Lewis are pictured in front of the White House with chaperone Shavon Willis, right, & IHS LMIC Coordinator Gale Marshall, background.



LEFT, Ajay gets a hug with First Lady Michelle Obama. **RIGHT**, Rhiannon & Ajay are pictured with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as she led the group on a tour of the West Wing of the White House & the Oval Office.

...continued next page

Diabetes Awareness Run/Walk Held in Choctaw

The Diabetes Prevention Program hosted their 20th Annual 2 Mile Run/Walk for Diabetes Awareness on Saturday, October 15 in Choctaw.

Participants started and finished at the Choctaw Central High School front gate and ran/walked the two-mile course on Industrial Road in the Pearl River Community.

Overall winners were

(male) Tobiah Ben and (female) Briana Wesley.

First and second place finishers in each age category are listed below.

(Ages 7-Under) Male - 1st, Koi Denson; 2nd, Chaston Johnson; Female - 1st, Iley Denson; 2nd, Shastyn Lewis.

(Ages 8-12) Male - 1st, Dylan Stephens; 2nd, Christian Davis; Female - 1st, Jaeden Wesley; 2nd, Nataysia Willis.

(Ages 13-18) Male - 1st, Yunish Billy; 2nd, Brison Dixon; Female - 1st, Ashanti Body; 2nd, Nikitta Wallace.

(Ages 19-25) Male - 1st, Jeremy Vaughn; 2nd, Beeman Farmer; Female - 1st, Ashley Edwards; 2nd, Deshayna

Hickman.

(Ages 26-32) Male - 1st, Shane Butler; 2nd, Michael Willis; Female - 1st, Cheriena Ben; 2nd, Shavon Willis.

(Ages 33-39) Male - 1st, Duane Kelley; 2nd, Benny Mitch; Female - 1st, Michelle Tangle; 2nd, Kim Ferris.

(Ages 40-45) Male - 1st, Bruce Jim; 2nd, Jay Wesley; Female - 1st, Jonie Vaughn; 2nd, Priscilla Lilly.

(Ages 46-52) Male - 1st, Gregory Shoemake; 2nd, Ricky Alex; Female - 1st, Marion Sockey; 2nd, Lori Ahshapanek.

(Ages 53-60) Male - 1st, Adolph Vivians; 2nd, Daniel Mittan; Female - 1st, Cheryl Denson; 2nd, Lena Willis.

(Ages 61-65) Male - 1st, Howard Tucker; Female - 1st, Rita Mattera; 2nd, Josephine Morris.

(Ages 66-Above) Male - 1st, Stephen Tubby; Female - 1st, Bernita Reynolds; 2nd, Gloria White.

The event promotes

diabetes awareness across the Choctaw Reservation as participants are urged to become educated on diabetes prevention and management and hopefully overcome the devastating effects of diabetes.

Disposing Of Expired Medication

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency will soon be offering a wonderful service to the Tribe as they will provide a collection station in the Choctaw Health Center where you may properly dispose of medications you no longer take.

There are many reasons not to keep expired medications or medications you no longer take. By keeping expired medications, or medications you no longer use, you may be putting yourself or your family members at risk for harm or even an untimely death.

If you search the Internet by Googling "Accident Death Medication," numerous websites appear. Most of them tell a sad story of someone who accidentally took medications that was not intended for them.

There's another important reason to only keep the medication you are currently taking. If for some reason you end up in the hospital (car accident or other reason), your loved ones can quickly get the information to the hospital to make sure you receive the medications you need. This will help the hospital provide the best care for you.

In addition to getting rid of medications you no longer need, the Choctaw Health Center Pharmacy staff offers a few medication storage recommendations to help make you home safer:

- Store medications in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture, and humidity.
- Never use damaged medication, or medications that have changed color, texture, or smell, even if it isn't expired.
- Always keep medications in their original container. This could be very important if the medication needs to be quickly identified.
- Most importantly, always keep medications out of sight or reach of children.

For more information about medication storage, call the CHC Pharmacy at 601-389-4330.



Pictured above are first & second place finishers in age categories.

Indian Centers, private businesses, youth leaders & the non-profit sector are asked to play a key role by working together to raise the next generation of healthy Native children.

Program goals include:

- Creating a healthy start on life;
- Developing healthy learning communities;
- Increasing opportunities for physical activity;

ity; and

- Ensuring families have access to healthy,

affordable foods.



Rhiannon & Ajay are pictured with NASA Astronaut Kjell Lindgren (left) & singer, songwriter, actress Ashanti (right).



MSMS Partners With CTS for Instruction

Mississippi Math and Science (MSMS) has partnered with Choctaw Tribal Schools to bring Algebra I instruction into the eighth grade classrooms for qualified students based on individual student math data.

This instruction will be provided via interactive, long-distance learning. An MSMS instructor presents a daily 55-minute lesson based on Mississippi College and Career standards and concepts.

Through the use of Polycom technology,

students and school facilitators at Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, Red Water, & Tucker Elementary Schools, & Choctaw Central Middle School interact daily with their instructor, Karin McWhorter, to acquire Algebra I skills.

This new technological method of learning will provide students a future opportunity to expand their knowledge by acquiring advanced math skills at the high school level, as well as earn a high school academic credit before entering ninth grade.



Pictured above are several Algebra I students.

CES Tutoring Program

Students at Conehatta Elementary School have the opportunity to receive extra help in Reading and Math through the Title 1 Tutorial Program.

There are certified teachers on campus Tuesday-Thursday of each week to work one-on-one or in small group sessions with students.

Teachers also go into the classrooms while instruction and practice are taking place and are available to assist and reinforce the lesson being taught. This gives teachers the means to give personal attention to students in areas of reading and math.

The goal of the program is to rein-



Kathy Shepherd is pictured working with first grade student Kaydence Jim.

force skills and activities going on in the regular class, which in turn helps students with preparation for the end-of-the-year test.



CES Hosts Visitors

Conehatta Elementary School was visited by students from Lake Middle School & Sebastapol Elementary during American Indian Week celebrations. Visitors experienced a display of Choctaw culture as our students, along with students from Choctaw Central High School, performed traditional dances, songs & drumming. Visiting students were given beaded necklaces, art work that depicted the belt, crown & headdress, & were treated to a sample of fry bread. It was a honor to share our traditions with our visitors.

CES Braves, Princesses

Conehatta Elementary School held its Brave & Princess Pageant during American Indian Week. Winners were, front row from left, Tiny Brave Konley Anderson & Tiny Princess Xandria Wallace; back row, Brave Alarys Johnson, Princess Shantashia John, Tiny Brave Keondrea Anderson, & Tiny Princess Kadriann Farmer.



SPES Princesses, Braves

Standing Pine Elementary School crowned their

Princesses & Braves for the 2016-2017 school year. **LEFT**, Tiny Division winners Khanzlee Richardson & Gabriel King. **CENTER**, Lil Division winners Yazzlyn Alex & Brylas Willis. **RIGHT**, Princess & Brave Brylee Willis & Aiden Alex.



SPES Students Honored Several students from Standing Pine Elementary School achieved outstanding subject ratings in the 2016 Spring Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP). In math, 3rd grader Brylee Willis & 4th graders

Anya Anderson, Cameron Reed, Chloe Wesley, & Natayasia Willis achieved Level 5 ratings. In the Mississippi Science Test, 5th grader Bishop Reed achieved an advanced rating. Not pictured is 6th grader Jaeden Wesley as she achieved a Level 5 rating in MAP language.





SPES Breast Cancer Awareness

In observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the students & staff of Standing Pine Elementary School honored breast cancer survivors principal Linda Peoples & staff member Terese Breedlove with a celebration featuring banners, posters, letters, songs, & dances. A balloon release concluded the event. Pictured left is Terese Breedlove, left, & Linda Peoples.



CCHS FFA Chapter Officially Chartered

A chapter of the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization & Mississippi FFA Association was officially chartered at Choctaw Central High School on Friday, Oct. 28. The chapter (MS0337) may operate within the rights & privileges as an official entity of the National FFA Organization. Members of this chapter are official active members of both the Mississippi FFA Association & the National FFA Organization. The FFA strives to make a positive impact on the lives of students through premier leadership, personal growth & career success through agricultural education. Pictured above, seated from left, are chapter secretary Xena Willis, FFA state secretary Kayla Mercer, state president Brice Fortinberry, chapter president Madison Dixon; standing, member Allen Sockey, CCHS Principal Fred Hickmon, reporter Merrick Hickman, vice president Cy McMillan, member Josh Hickman, student advisor Talia Guyette, member Dregen Joe, member Kevin Taylor, OTC Principal Liddia Hughes, member Terrance Thomas, & advisor Anna Morrow. Not pictured are treasurer Deeshaya Jefferson, members Anfernee Willis & Terrell Bell.



CONEHATTA UNIT NEWS

Mission Statement:

To inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, the Club will be open 12:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. due to 60 percent day at Tribal Schools.

On Thursday-Friday, Dec. 22-23, the Club will be closed.

On Monday, Dec. 26 - Tuesday, Jan. 2, the Club will be closed for

the holidays.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the Club will open their Spring Session. Hours will be from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Youths of the Months

Braylon Smith, 11 year-old son of John & Allison Smith, was selected Youth of the Month for August 2016. He is a sixth grader at

Conehatta Elementary School & a Beta member. Braylon is also a member of the TORCH club & volunteers at the club. We appreciate the help he provides to the staff & members of the club.

Sean Wallace, 11 year-old son of Craig & Mindy Bell of the Conehatta Community, was selected Youth of the Month for September 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & is always eager to

help serve snacks to the members. Sean is very appreciated for his efforts to volunteer & as-

sist. Thanks a lot, Sean! Braylon McMillan, see CLUB NEWS, pg. 12



Club members went to Tinseltown Theaters to watch "Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children."



Members learned how to make goo at the Mississippi Children's Museum.



Pictured from left are Youth of the Month recipients Braylon Smith, Sean Wallace, Braylon McMillan, & new staff member Kanyon Jimmie.

Area Teams Bring Home State Softball Titles

Tribal student athletes were instrumental in bringing home state championships to their respective high schools in the 2016 MHSAA C Spire Slow-Pitch Softball Championships on Saturday, Oct. 22 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

Choctaw Central claimed the Class 3A title as they swept Mooreville, Newton County won the Class 4A title over West Lauderdale and Neshoba Central won the Class 5A/6A title as they swept George County.

The Choctaw Central Lady Warriors (25-5) won their second state title since 2013 as they defeated the Mooreville Lady Troopers 6-5 and 13-2.

"It feels good right now to be Choctaw! For us to come play and win, we are just so happy," said first-year Lady Warriors head coach Crystal Roach.

"We encouraged the players to be there for each other and it showed. We believed in each other and told them to just play their best and that's what they did. It was great!"

In the first game, the Lady Warriors took a 1-0 lead at the bottom of the second inning.

Mooreville came back for a two-run lead in the top of the third, but Choctaw Central tied the contest 2-2 to end the third inning.

After a bases loaded sacrifice fly, the Lady

Warriors regained the lead 3-2 at the end of the fourth.

In the fifth, Mooreville tied the game 3-3. At the bottom of the inning, Choctaw Central added three more runs for a 6-3 lead.

Mooreville scored a run in the sixth inning to trail 6-4 heading into the final inning.

The Lady Troopers inched closer with a run in the top of the seventh.

With bases loaded and one out, the Lady Warriors forced the final two outs to secure a 6-5 win.

In the second game, the Lady Warriors opened with a 3-0 lead in the first inning. After three scoreless innings, the Choctaw Central bats came alive with four runs in the fifth and three runs at the top of the sixth for a 10-0 lead.

Mooreville avoided a shutout with two runs at

the bottom of the sixth for a 10-2 deficit.

Choctaw Central added three more runs in the final inning 13-2 to secure their second state slow-pitch championship.

"We knew we could play. In our first game, we felt nervous," said Roach. "We encouraged them and calmed them down. We knew what our strengths were and we went out and

played."

The Newton County Lady Cougars (29-6) won their seventh consecutive title and 11th overall by defeating the West Lauderdale Lady Knights in the best-of-three series. West Lauderdale won the first game 3-1 but Newton County came back with 16-13 and 8-3 victories.

West Lauderdale took a 1-0 lead in the second inning until the Lady Cougars tied the game

...continued next page



with a run in the top of the sixth inning. West Lauderdale came back with two more runs to close out the inning and hold on for the win.

In the second contest, West Lauderdale continued the offensive momentum as they scored six runs in the top of the first inning. Newton County came back with five runs to trail 6-5 at the end of first.

After scoring a run each in the second, New-

ton County added seven runs in the bottom of the third for a 13-7 lead.

West Lauderdale had two more runs in the fourth but Newton County added three more runs for a 16-9 lead.

West Lauderdale had four more runs but came up short 16-13.

In the deciding game, after trading leads early in the contest, Newton County came back with four runs in the fifth in-

ning enroute to a 8-3 win.

The Neshoba Central Lady Rockets (28-7) won their fifth consecutive state championship as they defeated George County Lady Rebels 12-1 and 18-17.

George County took a 1-0 lead in the first inning, but the Lady Rockets tacked on four runs in the third, five runs in the fourth and three runs in the fifth inning before the game was called due

to mercy rule.

The second game was much closer as George County took a 1-0 lead at the top of the first. Neshoba came back with three runs in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-1.

George County knocked in five more runs in the second before Neshoba came back with two runs to trail 6-5.

The game was tied 9-9 in the fifth inning as George County added

three runs and Neshoba four.

Neshoba had six runs in the bottom of the sixth to regain the lead 15-9.

George County scored eight runs to reclaim the lead 17-15 at the top of the seventh. Neshoba was yet to be done as they put two in scoring position and Kaylee Routh hit a three-run home run to secure a 18-17 final.

Congratulations To Our Chahta Champions!



**CLASS 3A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
CHOCTAW CENTRAL**



**CLASS 4A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NEWTON COUNTY**



**CLASS 6A/5A SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
STATE CHAMPIONS 2016
NESHOBAL CENTRAL**

Choctaw Transportation Guidelines for Health Center Clients and General Public

CHOCTAW TRANSPORTATION IS PROUD TO OFFER TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TRIBAL MEMBERS

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

601-650-7430/601-650-7372

FOR NON-EMERGENCY/MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION YOU MUST CALL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE BEFORE 3:30 PM.

TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER

3:30 PM.

FOR TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS ON MONDAY'S, YOU MUST CALL THE FRIDAY BEFORE.

601-650-7430/601-650-7372

YOU MUST GIVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TIME AND DATE OF APPOINTMENT, PHONE NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE CONTACTED.

For service complaints
Call 601-663-7748



CLUB NEWS continued from page nine

son of Latilda Jim & Bjoin McMillan of the Conehatta Community, was selected Youth of the Month for October 2016. He is a sixth grader at Conehatta Elementary School & the youngest of five children. Braylon assists staff in various activities at the club. We thank you for all you do, Braylon.

New Staff Member

We welcome Kanyon Jimmie to our club. He will be facilitating the sports/fitness/recreation

program for the club members.

Club Activities

Mr. Pilgrim, of the Choctaw Tribal Schools, has been visiting the club at least twice a month in the Mobile Resource Center to provide educational games or additional educational assistance to the members.

On Nov. 23, several club members enjoyed a field trip to Party Safari in Flowood.



Club members participate in "Park After Dark" at the Mississippi Children's Museum on Oct. 28.

DOECE Hosts Green Corn Festival

The 25th Annual Green Corn Festival, sponsored by the Department of Early Childhood Education, was held on Friday, Oct. 14, at the Pearl River

Ampitheater in Choctaw.

The event was established so Choctaw customs would continue to survive and bring about the appreciation of the culture through dance and feasting for the young children and their families.

Flags were presented by the Choctaw Color Guard as all Early Childhood Education children made a grand entrance onto the amphitheater grounds, followed by an invocation by Stanley Bell.

Drummers for the entrance included Terrance Kinsolving, Elijah Ben, Elter Wilson, Craig Anderson, & Stanley Bell.

Pearl River Day Care Center Director Jessica Henry welcomed those in attendance and said it is important to keep traditions alive and to encourage all children to continue dancing.

Guest speaker Pearl River Tribal Council

representative Stella Willis said she was happy to see the revival of cultural knowledge beginning at an early age for these children.

"What we teach these children today in the first five years of their lives is the formative years. We are thankful that while parents work, our children are taken care of and taught the values of our tribe. Let us join together and make sure we keep our traditions alive."

A total of nine Head Start classes performed several traditional social dances. Serving as chanters were Curtis "Buck" Willis, Jr. & Darien Tubby. Afterwards, the Elderly Program social dancers performed the House Dance.

Pearl River Head Start student Sadie Farve offered the benediction as a traditional meal was served in the Pearl River Community Center.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM 2017 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Requirements:

- Enrolled member of MBCI
- Ages 15-24
- Middle school, high school & college students
- 2.0 GPA (C Average)
- One per family

Applications available at YOP Office!

Deadline:
April 13, 2017

For more info,
call 601-650-7321

Halloween Fun Events

Halloween was a fun time for children and elders in Choctaw as several activities were held for their enjoyment.

Several hundred children and their families participated in Trunk or Treat events on Oct. 28. The Choctaw Tribal Council hosted their event in the parking lot of their offices and the Department of Public Safety hosted their event in the parking lot of the Smith John Justice Complex.

Tribal elders held their own activities at the Choctaw Elderly Activity Center as they held contests for cake decorating, pumpkin carving, dance, and costume.



Healthy Family Fall Festival

Children from the Division of Early Childhood Education's Head Start programs participated in the 6th Annual Healthy Family Fall Festival in the Pearl River Community Center in Choctaw on Friday, October 21. The event, sponsored by the Family Violence & Victim's Services, was held in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Various programs and staff members provided fun-filled activities and information for all the children & their parents & guardians. Participants concluded the event with a domestic violence awareness march to the nearby Pearl River Recreation Field for a balloon release.

LEFT, Pumpkin carving contest winners, from left, Dora Nickey & Judy Isaac. Not pictured is Frankie Willis. **RIGHT**, Cake decorating contest winners, from left, Lorena Lewis, Dora Nickey & Gloria Wilson. **BELOW**, Elderly Activity Center participants in the costume contest (left) & the dance contest.



Employee, Employer of the Year Honored

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program observed Disability Awareness Week Sept. 26-30 to raise awareness of disability issues & celebrate various contributions of workers with disabilities. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the program honored an Employee & Employer of the Year 2016 at The Occupational Training Center Cafe in Choctaw. Nicola Lewis was recognized as Employee of the Year & Pearl River Resort's Food & Beverage Department was named Employer of the Year. **ABOVE**, Sheila Martin, Executive Director of Resort Operations (center), accepts the Employer of the Year Award on behalf of the Pearl River Resort. Also pictured is Christopher Mesteth, Job Placement Counselor (left), & Mary Lundy Meruvia, Program Director. Not pictured is Employee of the Year recipient Nicola Lewis. Disability Awareness Week activities is made possible by a grant from the Choctaw Community Fund.





Pow Wow/Vigil Held For Domestic Violence Awareness

The Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS), in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, hosted a pow wow & candlelight vigil on Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw. The event, *Break The Silence (Nokchito Ya Loshohlih)*, was held in observance of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the conclusion of the pow wow, FVVS staff members led a candlelight vigil as dancers, drummers & the audience stood together to end all forms of domestic violence & heal as a sacred community. FVVS serves as a hub for all domestic violence & sexual assault issues on the Choctaw Reservation & provides & coordinates services that promote safety, health & anonymity of domestic violence & sexual assault victims & their dependents. The mission of FVVS is to develop a zero-tolerance attitude among Choctaw people for domestic violence crimes & promote a significant decline in domestic violence & sexual assault crime on the Choctaw Reservation. For more information, contact FVVS at 601-650-1774.



Community Law Day held Oct. 27

The Mississippi Center for Legal Services Corporation and Choctaw Legal Defense presented Choctaw Community Law Day, "Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges Through Legal Education" on Oct. 27 at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw. Dozens of participants received valuable legal information in several sessions pertaining to children & family services, consumer protection, power of attorney/conservatorship, adoption changes, probate/administration of estate (will), bankruptcy, & blood quantum/enrollment issues.

REPORT CRIMES ANONYMOUSLY

WeTip inc.

Call 1-855-4-THE REZ
(1-855-484-3739)
or visit www.wetip.com

CALL IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Theft
- Child Abuse
- Vandalism
- Illegal Drugs
- Bullying
- Assault
- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD, up to \$1,000!**

Homicide Victims Honored At Event

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' Family Violence & Victim's Services (FVVS) hosted an event to honor the memories of homicide victims & recognize the impact homicide has on surviving family members and loved ones.

On Thursday, Sept. 29, families of homicide victims gathered at the Pearl River Community Baptist Church in Choctaw to observe

the National Day of Remembrance for Homicide Victims.

FVVS therapist Kim Neal welcomed families and offered the opening prayer.

A proclamation was read stating FVVS is collaborating with officials to remember the tragedy of homicide, honor the courage of survivors and vow to help survivors rebuild

...continued next page



Pictured from left are Kim Neal of FVVS & Beth Henry of Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter.

Prevent Elder Abuse



Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774



their lives.

Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter case manager Beth Henry read the listing of Tribal member homicide victims as candles were lit in their memory. A luncheon was held in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Robert & Charlotte Hullinger, of Cincinnati,

formed Parents of Murdered Children following the 1978 murder of their 19-year-old daughter, Lisa, while she was studying in Germany.

In 2007, Congress designated Sept. 25 as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. The annual day of observance is on the date Lisa was murdered.



Psalm's Trio provided special music for the event.



Family members remember their loved ones as candles were lit in their honor & memory.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic Violence (DV) is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, approximately 15 calls every minute.
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.

END THE CYCLE!

If you are experiencing domestic violence you are NOT alone.

Please call us - We Can Help!

(601) 663-7851

24 Hour Crisis Line

or

(601) 650-1774

Family Violence & Victims' Services Program



DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

DCI partakes in Film Production

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI), along with officials from the MBCI Office of Public Information, Choctaw Video Productions, & Choctaw Wildlife & Parks, collaborated with Providence Pictures to record a PBS documentary called "Rediscovering America" during the last week of September.

The documentary will showcase the ancient mound building societies of the Americas as the Nanih Waiya cave & mounds are to be highlighted in this special feature.

Several Tribal members were interviewed about the history & cultural significance of the mounds. Choctaw social dances were also recorded at the mound to showcase Choctaw heritage.

Cultural Workshops

The Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) staff conducted cultural workshops at the Tucker Facility Building in October.

Classes included making sashes & medallions on Oct. 4, headbands & stickball aprons on Oct. 11, Choctaw dresses & shirts on Oct. 18 & 25, & collar necklaces using both bugle & seed beads on Oct. 20.

The Choctaw dress &

shirt making workshop on Oct. 25 was the final workshop held for fiscal year 2015-2016.

The CAP staff will be hosting cultural training workshops for all communities every Tuesday of each month for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The CAP offered a bugle & seed bead collar necklace making workshop at the Choctaw Police substation in the Choctaw community in Henning, TN on Nov. 18. A Thanksgiving feast was held the next day as Choctaw social dances was provided by the CAP.

The following is a tentative cultural workshop

schedule in the following communities for the remainder of fiscal year 2016-2017.

Bogue Homa

Dec. 9, Sash & Medallion Making, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Dec. 14 & 21, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Dec. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Pearl River

Jan. 4, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 10, Headband & Stickball Apron, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 17, Sash & Medallion Making, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Jan. 21, Hog Killing, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Jan. 24 & 31, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making,

see DCI NEWS, pg. 16



The Nanih Waiya Mound will be featured in a PBS documentary, "Rediscovering America."



Jane Tubby, Betty Tubby & Keri Tubby prepare a meal for the production crew & cast.



CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER

featuring
CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

HOURS OF OPERATION
TUESDAY - SATURDAY
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

ADMISSION	
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$5
EDUCATION DISCOUNT	\$3
MILITARY DISCOUNT	\$3
TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID	\$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE)	FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5)	FREE



Pictured are participants beading collar necklaces at the Tucker Facility Building. (Photo by Greg Jones)

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Crystal Ridge

Feb. 1, Sash & Medal-
lion Making, 9:00 a.m.-
3:30 p.m.

Feb. 7, Bugle & Seed
Bead Collar Necklace,
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Feb. 15, Headband &
Stickball Apron, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Feb. 21 & 28, Choc-
taw Dress & Shirt Mak-
ing, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Princess & Warrior
Survival Week will be
held in March, location
to be determined.

Standing Pine

Apr. 4, Sash & Medal-
lion Making, 9:00 a.m.-

3:30 p.m.

Apr. 11, Bugle & Seed
Bead Collar Necklace,
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Apr. 13, Headband &
Stickball Apron, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Apr. 18 & 25, Choc-
taw Dress & Shirt Mak-
ing, 9:00 a.m.-3:30
p.m.

Conehatta

May 2, Sash & Medal-
lion Making, 9:00 a.m.-
3:30 p.m.

May 9, Bugle & Seed
Bead Collar Necklace,
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

May 16, Headband &
Stickball Apron, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.



On Friday, Sept. 29, Casey Bigpond, Ken Frazier, Garrison Joe, Shandahl Hickman, & Rowena Willis presented Choctaw cultural activities for the Madison Avenue Lower Elementary School in Madison during an event called "My Mississippi." Bigpond, Hickman & Willis demonstrated the Choctaw drum & provided a miniature drum making activity for the students. Pictured above, Ken Frazier (left) & Garrison Joe gave a presentation on stickball sticks.



Participants thin out the shell for their drums.

May 24 & 30, Choc-
taw Dress & Shirt Mak-
ing, 9:00 a.m.-3:30
p.m.

Bogue Chitto

Aug. 1 & 8, Choctaw
Dress & Shirt Making,
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Aug. 15, Bugle &
Seed Bead Collar Neck-
lace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30
p.m.

Aug. 22, Headband
& Stickball Apron, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Aug. 29, Sash & Me-
dallion Making, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Red Water

Sept. 7, Sash & Me-
dallion Making, 9:00

a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 & 19, Choc-
taw Dress & Shirt Mak-
ing, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sept. 26, Headband
& Stickball Apron, 9:00
a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Sept. 28, Bugle &
Seed Bead Collar Neck-
lace, 9:00 a.m.-3:30
p.m.

Anita Winstead will
be present at particular
classes for those who
may need to purchase
beads or fabrics.

All interested parties
are invited to the work-
shops to learn, share

...continued next page



The CAP staff participated in Fall Fest, sponsored by Natural Resources, on Oct. 26. The staff enjoyed giving out treats to Choctaw Tribal Schools' students. Pictured, from left, are Phyllis McMillan, May McGeisey, Casey Bigpond, Trudy Jimmie, & Lorena Alex.

Protect Yourself from Medical Identity Theft

*Submitted by
Susan Cosgrove, Area
Extension Agent, Family
Resource Management*

Medical identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information (name, Social Security number, health insurance or Medicare number) to obtain medical care.

Exactly what the thief gets with your information may range from fake billing claims, drugs, to expensive equipment.

Unfortunately, it is also happening when someone working in a medical setting uses another person's information to submit false bills to insurance companies.

According to the fifth annual study on medical identity theft by the Ponemon Institute, published in 2015, medical identity theft incidents have increased 21.7 percent since the 2014 study.

Medical identity theft is a serious concern for

patients, health care providers & health plans. Health care providers & insurers are asking how they can minimize the risk & help their patients if they are victimized.

What if an identity thief tampered with your chart, & now it has the wrong allergen or blood type listed? This can be a matter of life or death.

Today, more of our medical information is digitized by health care providers. So this is now the target of computer

& network hackers that break into these electronic records & steal this valuable data.

Everything a thief needs is in our medical records – our Social Security number, health insurance numbers, address, phone number & our name. All of this information can be used to order goods & services (that are NEVER delivered) & bill them to Medicare & Medicaid.

These thieves can also corrupt medical records with erroneous information that can lead them to incorrect diagnosis & treatments which impacts the entire health care system. Medical identity theft is now the fastest growing crime in our country.

Recent estimated of

annual medical fraud in the U.S. range from \$80 billion to \$230 billion. Twenty-nine percent of victims do not find out about the identity theft until a year or later with 75% of victims finding it difficult to resolve these issues.

Sixty-five percent of victims paid an average of \$13,500 to resolve the crime. Victims spend an average of 200 hours correcting their compromised data.

How would you know if you are a victim? Victims may:

- Find erroneous listings of office visits or treatments on their medical EOB (explanation of benefits).

- Be told by their health plan that they have reached their limit on benefits, but they

.....see THEFT, pg. 18

information & have fun. Dates & times are subject to change. Please mark your calendar & make plans to attend!

Drum Workshop

The *Alhipa Chitto* (Drum) *Ikbi* workshop, under the guidance of CAP's Cultural Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond, was held at the Pearl River Community Dance Ground on Oct. 13. The cultural activity was hands-on-training sponsored by the CAP & funded by the MBCI Tribal Administration.

Presentation At Ole Miss

Casey Bigpond, Garison Joe, Dustin Isaac, & Rosemary John traveled to the University of Mississippi in Oxford for a Choctaw Culture Review & Choctaw Stickball Presentation. Members of Choctaw Central High School's dance group, coordinated by Elter Wilson, per-

formed an exhibition of Choctaw dances for the audience.

Choctaw Expressions At Mississippi Children's Museum

The Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) set up cultural exhibits in the interior halls of the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson in observance of Native American Heritage Month.

Choctaw Expressions, coordinated by DCI

Director Jay Wesley, was held at the museum from Nov. 1-5. The CAP gave presentations on stickball as they displayed stickball items, handed out information & showed stickball videos to the public.

Dance groups from the Choctaw Tribal Schools (Tucker, Standing Pine, Bogue Chitto, Conehatta, & Red Water Elementary Schools) also performed Choctaw dances for those in attendance.



Standing Pine Elementary School dancers enjoy a video of a stickball game prior to their performance at the Mississippi Children's Museum.

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 2016-2017 Hunting and Fishing Seasons

Hunting Season	Bag Limit
(A) Bobwhite Quail 11/24/16 – 03/04/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(B) Turkey, either sex 10/15/16 – 11/15/16	1/day; 3/fall season
(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	
Turkey, Gobblers only 03/15/16 – 05/01/17	1/day; 2/spring season
(Gobbler with 6 inch beard or longer)	
(C) Squirrel 10/01/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(D) Deer – either sex	
ALL BUCKS MUST BE 6 POINTS OR HIGHER DURING THE 2016-2017 SEASON. Exception: Youth less than fifteen (15) years old and elders (56+ years old) may have harvest one (1) buck with any hardened antler, regardless of number of points, inside spread, or beam length.	
Bucks: Three (3) per season, one (1) per day	
Does: Eight (8) per season, two (2) per day; with additional two (2) allowed with archery.	
Archery Only 10/01/16 – 11/01/16	
Youth Weekend (Gun) 10/29/16 – 11/01/16	
Gun (without dog) 11/01/16 – 11/18/16	
Gun (with dog) 11/19/16 – 12/04/16	
Gun (without dog) 12/05/16 – 12/16/16	
Gun (with dog) 12/17/16 – 01/22/17	
Archery/Primitive/Gun (without dogs) 01/23/17 – 02/12/17	
(E) Rabbit 10/08/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 16 poss.
Cultural Rabbitstick with dogs 10/01/16 – 03/12/17	8/day; 16 poss.
(F) Fox, crow, blackbirds	No closed season
	No limit
(G) Wild hog (No guns in October, Archery Only) No closed season	No limit
(H) Opossum, raccoon, bobcat 10/01/16 – 02/28/17	No limit
Raccoon only 07/01/17 – 09/30/17	1/nightly; 2 poss.
(I) Frogs 04/01/17 – 09/30/17	25/nightly; 50 poss.
(J) Trapping 11/01/16 – 03/15/17	No limit
1.2 MIGRATORY BIRDS (includes Doves)	
Canada Geese 09/01/16 – 09/15/16	5/day; 15 poss.
White-winged/Mourning Dove 09/03/16 – 10/09/16	15/day; 45 poss.
10/22/16 – 11/06/16	15/day; 45 poss.
12/10/16 – 01/15/17	15/day; 45 poss.
Teal 09/10/16 – 09/25/16	6/day; 18 poss.
Rails (Sora & Virginia) 09/03/16 – 11/11/16	25/day; 75 poss.
Rails (Clapper & King) 09/03/16 – 11/11/16	15/day; 45 poss.
Gallinules (Common & Purple) 09/30/16 – 11/11/16	15/day; 45 poss.
Snipe 11/14/16 – 02/28/17	8/day; 24 poss.
Woodcock 12/18/16 – 01/31/17	3/day; 9 poss.
1.4 FISHING	No Closed Season

**BOBBY L. DAVIS**

Funeral service for Bobby L. Davis, 61, was held on Friday, September 30, 2016, from the St. Theresa Catholic Church in Choctaw. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Pearl River Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Davis passed

away on Sept. 26 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He enjoyed being with family & friends, gardening, watching TV, & caring for animals.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Hayward Davis.

Survivors include his mother, Belfree Willis; father, Francis Davis; sisters, Betty Wilson, Sharron Thompson, Kathy Clemons, & Joyce Cauthen; broth-

ers, Johnny Davis & Jerithan Willis; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

BRADEN SAM

Funeral service for Braden Sam, 31, was held on Thursday, October 6, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Sam passed away

on Oct. 2 in Leake County.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & playing basketball & football.

He was preceded in death by infant sons, Daylon Grant Sam & Tyler Brae-Dean Sam; & grandparents, R.B. Sam, Easlin Denson & Lucille Lewis Chickaway.

Survivors include his parents, Bobby Dean Sam & Charlene Denson Sam; sons, Tyrus Sam, Braeson Sam, Zaymien Sam, Braden Sam, Jr., Hunter Sam, & Draeden Sam; a sister, Ariel Sam; a brother, Corey Sam; a companion, Deyonkia Willis; three aunts; four uncles; a niece, & a host of relatives & friends.

GLADYS WILLIS

Funeral service for Gladys Willis, 73, was held on Thursday, October 13, 2016, from the Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw. Rev. George Dixon & Rev. Robert Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Pine Bluff Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on Oct. 8 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

She enjoyed being with family, singing hymns, watching game shows, playing bingo, fishing, & traveling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom & Sally Davis Thomas Briscoe; sisters, Mollie Anderson,

Mary Ben & Vera B. Willis Isaac; brothers, Dewey Thomas, Golden Thomas, Singleton Thomas, Amos Thomas, & Woodrow Thomas; & three grandchildren.

Survivors include her daughters, Rachel Willis, Amanda Jefferson & Melanie Willis; sons, Eric Willis & Christopher Willis; a sister, Dora Nickey; 17 grandchildren; four foster children; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

MERDIS DENSON

Funeral service for Merdis Denson, 77, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Choctaw Missionary Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Bro. Shelly Peoples & Bro. Raymond Johnson, Jr., officiated.

...continued next page

THEFT continued from page seventeen

know this cannot be true.

- Be denied insurance because their medical records show a condition they don't have.

Medical identity theft prevention tips:

- Read the Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement. This may be lengthy & seem complex, but this is very important.

- Confirm what is in the EOB is correct & that it was YOU.

- Request a complete list of payments from your health insurance company annually.

- Keep a small calendar, documenting each date when you are at a doctor's office, lab, hospital, or pharmacy. Document each location/date of health care.

- Be stingy with

your information.

- Learn to spot phishing emails.

- Store your information carefully.

- Never use public Wi-Fi to compromise your personal information.

- Review your medical records for accuracy. Under federal law, you have a right to know what is in your medical files. You may have to pay a fee to get some of your records.

- Shred documents associated with your health insurance you no longer need.

- Get a free copy of your credit report from annualcreditreport.com.

If you are a victim of medical identity theft, take these steps:

- Call the authorities & file a police report.

- Send a copy of police report to your insurer, medical providers & all

three credit bureaus.

- Call your insurance company & report it.

- Request access to your medical records (doctor, hospital, pharmacy, & lab). Correct errors immediately.

- File a medical identity theft complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or call the FTC Hotline (877) IDTHEFT.

- Work with your insurance company & medical providers to clear your name of the charges.

For more details, contact Susan Cosgrove, Area Extension Agent, at 601-635-7011 or email s.cosgrove@msstate.edu. Or contact your county office of Mississippi State University Extension.

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/
Family Ministry Class

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Denson passed away on Oct. 11 at her residence.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Valleria Sockey; & sisters, Jeanette Willis & Deiores C. Sockey.

Survivors include her daughters, Cindy Ann Lewis & Sanpella Jefferson; a son, Dudley Denson, Sr.; sisters, Catherine F. Bolin & Sadie R. Wilson; brothers, Elvin J. Sockey & Clyde A. Sockey; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two aunts; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

CECIL DIXON

Funeral service for Cecil Dixon, 71, was held on Friday, October 14, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Randall Joe & Rev. John Frazier officiated.

Burial was in the Nanih Waiya Mennonite Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Dixon passed away on Oct. 12 at his

residence.

He enjoyed gardening, fishing, hunting, making stickball sticks, & playing the guitar. He was a four-time stickball MVP.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim & Bessie Frazier Dixon; wife, Alline Willis; daughter, Stacy Dixon; sisters, Patsy Robinson & Rosie Hickman; brother, Lewisman Dixon; & a great-grandchild.

Survivors include his daughters, Rosie Dixon, Ashley Stephens, Karen Smith, & Lavina Vaughn; sons, Cecil Ray Dixon, Richard Dixon, Mario Stephens, & Donald Bell; sisters, Winnie Isaac & Louisa Bell; 25 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, relatives & friends.

WILLIAM HICKMAN, SR.

Funeral service for William Hickman, Sr., 61, was held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Deacon Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Hickman passed away on Oct. 23 at Anderson Regional Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a U.S. Army & National Guard veteran. He enjoyed being with family & playing stickball.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Mullet Hickman & Christine Frazier Hickman; daughter, Chrystal Bell; sister, Lourean Denson; brothers, Dale Hickman & Terry Lee Hickman; & two great-granddaughters.

Survivors include his companion, Louisa Mingo; daughters, Dee Dee Beckwith & Elizabeth Mingo; sons, William Hickman, Jr., Eric Mingo, Jeremiah Mingo, Jason Mingo, & Ricardo Wilson; sisters, Fannie Jones & Annie Hickman; brothers, Willie J. Hickman & Randy Hickman; adopted siblings, Johnathan Hickman & Jessica Hickman; an aunt; uncle; 26 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives &

friends.

ARMAN DURAN JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Arman Duran Jefferson, 31, was held on Friday, October 28, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the Conehatta Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Oct. 25 in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed spending time with family, fishing, playing washers, basketball, volleyball,

stickball, listening to music, & drawing.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Edmond & Berdie Shoemake, Goldman & Millie Jefferson; a brother, Marcus Jefferson; an aunt & four uncles.

Survivors include his wife, Lisa Jefferson; daughter, Melody Jefferson; sons, Antone Jefferson, Arman Jefferson, Jr., Carmen Jefferson, & Keaton Jefferson; sister, Tabatha Thomas; brothers, Javeon Jefferson, Leran Jefferson, Jr., Dallas Shoemake, & Jobie Charlie; five aunts; two uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

HALITO DOLLAR STORE

Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, MS

STORE HOURS

Open Daily-
8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Holidays - 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

D's NATIVE EDGE
Barber Shop

202 Choctaw Town Center
Choctaw, Mississippi

***** Business Hours *****

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

AB
mechanical, inc.

Heating & Air Conditioning Service

A&B Mechanical, Inc.
P.O. Box 6003
Choctaw, MS 39350
(Office) 601-656-4818
(Fax) 601-656-4418
Allen Peoples, President/Owner,
Chahta Owned & Operated

Pearl River Insurance Agency

Need Auto Insurance?

Multi-Vehicle Discounts
SR 22

Safe Driver Discounts

Come in for a free quote
or call 601-663-0971
300 Choctaw Town Center
Suite 106
(Behind Wendy's on Hwy. 16 West)

HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Appointment Only

Welcome To

NANIH WAIYA INDIAN Mennonite Church

Preaching Every
Sunday - 10:00 am

10341 Road 789
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Come Join Us...



Spirit of Life Christian Center

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

278 Black Jack Road
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-389-5446
Pastor Thomas Ben

CHOCTAW TOWN CENTER

OUTDOOR MARKET

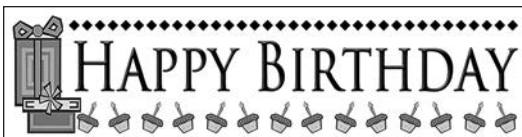
COME JOIN US!!
A GREAT PLACE
FOR A SALE!!

Yard sales, fundraisers,
food sales, or bake sales
for individuals, organizations
or ball teams.

Applications & guidelines can
be picked up at the Office of
Economic Development, or
if you have any questions
call DeeSandra Ben at
601-650-1612.

Happy Big ??
 Birthday to Harold
 Sockey, Sr., from
 your family Dakota,
 Harold Jr., The-
 resa Sockey, &
 Monica. Have a
 Blessed Day.

Happy Birth-
 day to Charles
 Wilson, Sr., on
 Oct. 31, 2016.
 From your fam-
 ily & bro "Arb"
 & "Luci."



LEFT, Congratula-
 tions to PFC Shawn
 Smith on completing
 Army basic training at
 Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, on
 Sept. 16, 2016. All of
 your friends & family
 from Conehatta, Pearl
 River & Dallas, Texas,
 are very proud of you!

Club Celebrates Heritage Month

Members of East Cen-
 tral Community Col-
 lege's Native Ameri-
 can Club celebrated
 Native American Her-
 itage Month on Sept.
 22 on the college's Decatur campus. Club members played tradi-
 tional music for spectators. The group also sold hominy, frybread &
 Indian tacos as a fundraiser for their club. ECCC librarians Leslie
 Hughes & Elizabeth Minter serve as club sponsors. (EC Photo)



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

OCTOBER 2016

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ATTENTION TRIBAL MEMBERS

The CHOCTAW TRIBAL ELDERS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT Needs Your Help!

We are seeking old photos, newspaper clippings, cultural artifacts, & memorabilia. These items will be used in unison with video interviews with Tribal elders who tell their life experiences through a cultural & traditional perspective. This project will cover a number of topics, & if you have any items pertinent to the project & would like to share, bring all items to the Department of Chahta Immi Special Projects/Media Program. All items will be copied & returned promptly back to you.



Photos courtesy of
 Tribal Archives

Topics for the CTEOHP include:

Religion & Spirituality • Tribal Government
 Historical Events • Song & Dance
 Education • Food Ways • Social Life
 Clothing • Work

*Our Elders are our bridge to the past. Their words will make
 alive a way of life that our youth can learn about and preserve.*

For more information,
 please contact:
 Special Projects/Media Program
 601-663-7735

CTEOHP

Choctaw Tribal Elders
 Oral History Project

Capturing the History, Language, and Traditional Lifestyles of the MS Choctaws



Participants Have Fun At Choctaw Challenge

Dozens of area athletes participated in the 2016 Choctaw Chal-
 lenge, a 5k mud run at Lake Pushmataha in Choctaw on Satur-
 day, Oct. 29. The 3.1 mile rough terrain mud obstacle course
 was sponsored by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and
 Mississippi State University Extension Service. Participants ran
 across the lake levee before heading into the wooded trail for a
 series of obstacles before coming back out and racing towards
 the finish line. Participants who pre-registered received an offi-
 cial T-shirt along with an information packet.

CRDE Announces Debt Reduction Strategy, Refinancing Transaction

(CHOCTAW, Miss.) – Tribal Chief and Chairman of Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board (CRDE) Chief Phyliss J. Anderson announced on Nov. 16 that CRDE paid off its outstanding bond debt and refinanced its existing bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE's total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

"Our financial status is stronger than ever and this deal shows we have been very successful and responsible in managing our tribal debt. These trusted financial institutions believe in our leadership and have worked with us to reduce debt and lower interest rates," said Anderson.

"We are very pleased with this opportunity and appreciate the confidence these partners have shown in us. We are saving

.....see CRDE, pg. 4

New Community Facility Opens In Henning



A view of the 12,000 square-foot Henning Multi-Purpose Facility.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted a ribbon cutting/grand opening celebration for a newly-constructed multi-purpose facility building in Henning, Tenn., on

Saturday, Nov. 19.

Following the official opening, a community-wide feast was held to highlight the celebration for the day.

"We've been talking about this for years and its just so exciting to be here today. This building behind us represents a great investment, a lot of time and money for the benefit of our families and residents here in the Henning area," said Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

As a result of increased revenues by the Pearl River Resort and Tribal government, the Tribal Council passed FY16



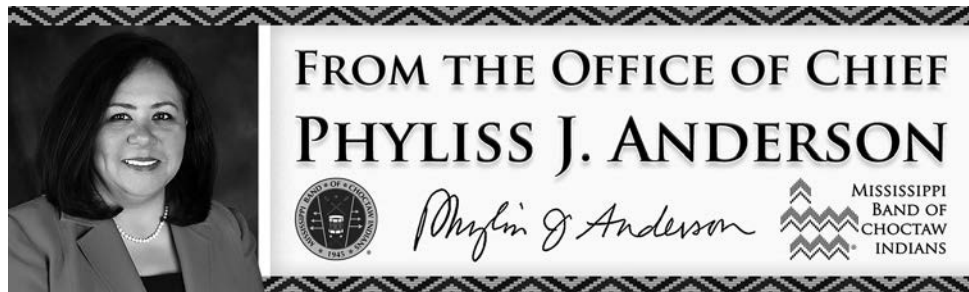
Tribal members of the Henning community had their first Thanksgiving feast inside their new facility.

.....see HENNING, pg. 5

CCHS Lady Warriors Runner-Up in Class 3A Cross Country

The Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors Cross Country Team placed runner-up in Class 3A for the second consecutive year at the 2016 MH-SAA State Cross Country Championships on Nov. 5 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton. The Warriors team placed third overall in the boys standing.





Season's Greetings from the Choctaw Tribal Offices! What a beautiful fall we have been experiencing on our Reservation.

It is always wonderful to watch the leaves change color and feel the cool weather coming in. This is the time of year we also gather with family and friends to give thanks for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us.

I am so happy to share wonderful news of our progress and the great successes our Tribe has experienced in 2016.

Tribal Progress Continues To Strengthen

In the September column, I shared some information about our recent budget season. The council passed our

FY17 Tribal Government Operating Budgets 10-7 during a special call council meeting. I am excited about this upcoming year and the work we will do for our tribal members.

But first, as we near the end of the year, I want to share a look back on the highlights of 2016. The progress we have made over the last year has been tremendous.

These accomplishments could not have happened without the support of our tribal members, tribal government employees and resort associates.

Construction and renovation of many of our facilities were completed in 2016. Those areas include a total renovation of the downstairs facility building in Pearl River, now known as the Pearl River Community

Center, the CCHS Pressbox at Warrior Stadium, new restroom facilities in several locations, renovated Wetlands Discovery Area in Conehatta, a new Multi-Purpose Facility Building for the Henning, Tenn. community and various other upgrades throughout our communities.

We also launched the tribal elder roofing project to provide needed roof repairs or replacements for elder homes. To date we have completed work on 142 elder homes with 26 still left to complete after we extended the application deadline.

We will continue the important work of serving our much respected elders to provide them comfort and safety in their homes.

In 2016, we also provided a \$2,000 pay increase for teachers and instructional aides in the Choctaw Tribal School System, Cost-of-living increases for tribal government employees, raised the minimum wage for regular employees to \$10 an hour, replaced dated program vehicles and equipment, and purchased 20 new school buses.

We also experienced a great victory for Indian Country with the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on the Dollar

General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians case. The tied decision affirmed the judgment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in our favor.

This decision by the courts strengthens tribal sovereignty and allows our tribal members to seek justice in our Tribal courts. This case was precedent setting and historic for our Choctaw people and all of Indian Country.

Tribal Progress Continues To Strengthen

The Resort and Tribal Enterprises have had another successful year with earnings up even more than last year and profits continue to look great. Revenues are up by more than \$11 Million as compared to this time last year and profits (EBITDA) are up by more than \$2 Million!

We continue to grow our business interest on the reservation and at the Resort. One example this year is Pearl River Graphics.

We were pleased to purchase equipment from First American Printing and consolidate their services with our existing Resort print shop to start a new comprehensive graphics and multi-media business that is now open to the public in our Choctaw Tech Parc.

Our financial partners have taken note of these successes and the strong leadership we have in place. And they have confidence in what we

are doing on our reservation.

Recently, our Resort management team, tribal leadership and CRDE Board of Directors worked with our financial partners on a new debt reduction plan and refinance package that reduces our interest rates to historic lows and saves our Tribe millions of dollars in interest fees.

With this new deal we were able to pay off the Resort's outstanding bond debt and refinance existing bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE's total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

The Tribe's financial status is stronger than ever and this deal shows we have been very successful and responsible in managing our tribal debt.

These trusted financial institutions believe in our leadership and have worked with us to reduce debt and lower interest rates. We are very pleased with this opportunity and appreciate the confidence these partners have shown in us.

We are saving millions of dollars while building a stronger financial future for the next generation of tribal members.

Our outstanding resort associates and government employees work hard every day to make life on our reservation

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

P.O. BOX 6010

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

better and I thank each of you. Reservation wide you will see that we are reinvesting these savings and creating a better quality of life in our communities.

Tribal Schools Show Excellent Performance

Tribal school students continue to outperform themselves in the classroom and on the field. Our Tribe operates the largest tribally-controlled reservation school system in the United States that serves more than 2,100 students across 8 schools.

Our average daily attendance continues to improve with 92 percent attendance on an average day. Graduation rates continue to grow from 54 percent two years ago to 70 percent in 2016. And the high school drop-out rates have been cut in half over the past three years.

Our tribal schools recently received two grants totaling \$2.4 Million to assist in development of Choctaw Language curriculum, the hiring of Choctaw Language instructors and expanding classroom space for our elementary schools.

In the next five years we will see tremendous growth in opportunities for our students to develop strong fluency in the Choctaw language.

We are working on a new virtual high school that will allow students to "drop back into high school" and complete their regular high school diplomas at their own

pace.

I know this program will be of great benefit to our tribe and helping many of our members accomplish their goals.

Choctaw Tribal Schools is also home to the Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball champions and the Unified Special Olympics Team consistently brings home gold medals in their competitions.

Our girls' basketball team made it all the way to the "Big House" this past season and our track team is bringing home great times and wins for our school.

I am happy to also share that in addition to a new scoreboard at CCHS Warrior Stadium, we have completed design work for renovations and improvements at the CCHS Girls Softball field.

Our tribal students and schools continue to inspire all of us and provide some of the best examples of success in Indian Country. But to continue growing and making these milestone achievements we must provide adequate resources and facilities for our students, teachers and staff.

Let's continue to support our schools, students, teachers, and administrators and thank them for the work they do each day.

Other Notable Community Projects

As we continue to build our financial successes we are also looking forward to the fu-

ture.

We have other projects in the works including:

- Construction of tribal homes - In the next few weeks we will start groundwork on 14 new homes in the Conehatta community. And then we will move to our other communities starting next in Tucker, Standing Pine and then Pearl River. We look forward to making new homes available to tribal members in all our communities over the next few years;
- The renovation and reimplementation of the former Choctaw Health Center building;
- A new health clinic in the Red Water Community;
- Construction of a new barn for Vocational Rehabilitation Services;
- Upgrades and repairs to the Conehatta community pavilion and softball fields.

And as our Tribe continues to grow we must responsibly explore new business opportunities that will provide new jobs and increased revenue.

Market research supports expanding our gaming market into Leake County and that is something we will continue to look at and consider. We are also reviewing other opportunities for partnership and development that will diversify our economy and keep our tribal members employed with good jobs close to home.



Closing

It makes me so happy to know the legacy of our Choctaw people will remain strong for many generations to come. That was the hope of our ancestors. And today we are united strong with 10,867 enrolled tribal members!

I have so enjoyed visiting with many of you during our most recent Tribal Thanksgiving Feast and Henning Multi-Purpose Facility Grand Opening Celebration. And I am filled with gratitude for

your continued support, words of encouragement and prayers for our great Tribe and my leadership.

As we enter the holiday season let's take a moment to slow down, reflect on our blessings and give him praise! May God continue to bless our Choctaw people and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief

Tribe Hosts Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Hundreds of Tribal members, guests and dignitaries were in attendance at the 2016 Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast, hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI), on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at the Silver Star Convention Center in Choctaw.

Led by a procession of tribal drummers, members of the Choctaw

Color Guard posted the flags adjacent to the stage as the National Anthem was sung in Choctaw by Deidre Tubby. Minister Curtis Willis, Sr. of the Spirit of Life Christian Center in Choctaw offered the invocation.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson welcomed attendees to the annual gathering as she offered a report of Tribal suc-

cesses and upcoming projects.

With the passage of the tribal government budget by the Tribal Council in September, improved services will be available to tribal members and employees, as well as new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities.

"We all want what is best for the Tribe and for the future generation of our Choctaw people," said Anderson.

Renovations within the year have included a new press box and bathroom facility at Warrior Stadium on the campus of Choctaw Central High School, restrooms near the Pearl River Amphitheater, upgrades to the Pearl River Community Center (formerly the facility building), and a \$1 million roof repair project for Tribal elders.

Included in the FY17 budget is a \$1 million project to repair drive-

ways for Tribal elders in need and pay raises for Head Start and Early Childhood teachers and officers of the Choctaw Police Department.

Other projects in the works include:

- Tribal adult softball multi-complex (to start this spring);
- Purchase of three new fire trucks;
- Purchase of new program vehicles that need to be replaced;
- Addition of \$3 million into the housing program with plans to construct 100 new homes within the next three years;
- Additional funding for completion of the Tribal Council Hall;
- Funding for Domestic Violence Shelter operations;
- Providing Cost-of-Living increase for all Tribal government employees (full-time and regular part-time employees).

"As the year goes, we

keep showing a good financial trend. We manage our resources and the funds we have with the Tribe. We're very excited we have been able to do that," said Anderson.

Pearl River Resort enjoyed success as earnings have increased. Revenue has gone up by \$11 million, compared to the same time last year, while EBITDA is up by \$2 million.

The resort also took over operations of the former First American Printing and became Pearl River Graphics which offers small and large format printing, full service copying and digital printing, and graphic design to all businesses and the general public.

As part of a debt reduction strategy and refinancing transaction, the Choctaw Resort Development Enterprise Board paid off its outstanding bond debt and refinanced its existing

...continued next page

NOTICE

HALITO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

In compliance with the Choctaw Tribal Code §22-3-6, the Tribal Enrollment Office is reviewing enrolled member's files to assure that all required documents are in their files.

Many of our enrollment files were first approved by the Choctaw Agency before our Tribe contracted with the BIA for the responsibility to oversee Tribal enrollment, & the documentation in some of those files was lacking. We have encountered problems with documentation in these older files when we are reviewing new applications that are relying on these prior BIA files.

Tribal membership is a privilege, & our office is committed to making sure all tribal members' files are fully completed so that tribal members receive the highest possible blood degree.

If a required document is absent from your file, you will receive a letter from the Enrollment Officer, Angela Stevens, requesting the particular missing document or documents to be submitted to the Enrollment Office; our office staff will be happy to assist you in contacting other agencies & departments to obtain documents if you request that we do so.

The Enrollment Officer will be sending out letters in the near future. In the event you receive a letter, we ask for your cooperation in getting your file updated.

We look forward to working with & assisting each of you to update your files to ensure that you & your family members receive all rights & privileges afforded to members of our Tribe.

Thank you,
Angela Stevens,
Tribal Enrollment Officer

CRDE continued from page one

millions of dollars while building a stronger financial future for the next generation of tribal members."

CRDE owns and operates the Pearl River Resort, which includes Silver Star Hotel and Casino, Golden Moon Hotel and Casino, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, Dancing Rabbit Inn and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park in Choctaw, Miss., and Bok Homa Casino in Sandersville just north of Hattiesburg, Miss.

Pearl River Resort offers over 2,400 slot machines, 70 table games, a 14-table poker room, three ho-

tels with 1,216 rooms, a large-scale events center, two nationally ranked 18-hole golf courses with lodging accommodations at the Dancing Rabbit Inn, the clubhouse and a fairway house, a top-ranked waterpark, as well as a number of food and beverage options.

Bok Homa Casino offers 720 slot machines and 12 table games along with an event center and quick serve eatery, Lucky's.

To learn more about Pearl River Resort, visit www.pearlriverresort.com or call 1.866.44PEARL.

bank credit facility to take advantage of the favorable bank credit market effectively reducing CRDE's total debt by \$25.8 million and reducing its annual interest expense by an estimated \$8.5 million annually.

"We have outstanding resort associates, wonderful employees at our enterprises and government employees that work very hard to make a better quality of life on the reservation for all people," said Anderson.

The MBCI operates the largest Tribally-controlled reservation school system in the U.S., the Choctaw Trib-

al Schools System, as it serves approximately 2,100 students in six elementary schools, a middle school and a high school.

The daily attendance average has improved to 92 percent as the graduation rate has gone from 54 percent to 70 percent in 2016. The high school drop out rate has been cut in half during the last three years.

The Tribe was a recipient of two Federal grants totaling \$2.4 million to preserve and promote the use of the Choctaw language in the Tribal School System and in the Choctaw



A view of the convention center floor during the Thanksgiving Feast.

communities. Funds will be used to hire Choctaw language instructors and expand classroom space in elementary schools in an effort to promote students speaking the Choctaw language flu-

ently within five years.

Also in the works is a virtual high school where all student services and courses are conducted through Internet technology which will allow students to

drop back into high school to complete their education and attain a diploma.

Anderson then commended student athletes

.....see FEAST, pg. 6

HENNING continued from page one

operating budgets in September 2015 which included allocated funding for building renovations, community improvements and new projects to improve services and quality of life for Tribal members.

"Today marks a great achievement that is



Marcia Thompson, left, was honored for completing the Diabetes Awareness 30-Day Challenge in Henning as she walked 30 miles in 24 days. Presenting her plaque is Nana Frazier of the Choctaw Health Center's Diabetes Prevention Program.

made possible through teamwork and community support. I say 'thank you' to all of those who have been a part of this great project."

The \$2 million construction project, approved by the Choctaw Tribal Council, began in March 2016. IKBI, Inc., a Choctaw Holding Group, served as general contractor with multiple local subcontractors.

"I believe (IKBI) built a beautiful building and

I hope you will take time to look at what we have in here," Chief Anderson told the audience.

The 12,000 square-foot facility features a four office complex for Tribal business activities, which includes offices for a facility manager, Tribal police, health worker, and an office for visiting Tribal programs, such as Tribal Enrollment, Social Services, Tribal Scholarships, etc.

The facility also includes a conference room for small, local meetings, an efficiency apartment for an on-duty Choctaw Police Officer and a full-size basketball court with bleachers, concession stand and restroom facilities.

Once community members toured the facility, they converged in the gymnasium for the feast and remarks by Chief Anderson detailing Tribal successes

during the year and updates on upcoming projects.

Choctaw social dancing was provided by members of the *Kabotcha Boli* dance group, Cultural Affairs Program and Henning community members. During the Stealing Partners dance, Santa Claus made his appearance and took pictures with the children afterwards.



Henning community members take part in the Stealing Partners.



Santa Claus made his way from the North Pole to visit the children of Henning.

FEAST continued from page five

for their recent accomplishments.

Choctaw Central High School's Lady Warriors claimed the Class 3A State Slow-Pitch Softball Championship in October while the Cross Country teams placed in the state championships in November. The Lady

Warriors were runner-up in Class 3A while the Warriors placed third.

Choctaw Central special education and general education students, along with students from Leake Central, won gold medals in Unified Flag Football and Bocce competitions at the

Mid-Mississippi Region of Special Olympics.

A new scoreboard will be a new addition to Warrior Stadium in the summer of 2017 while designs have been completed for renovation and improvements to the Lady Warriors softball field.

"Our students continue to inspire all of us and provide the best examples of success in Indian Country. We have to continue to grow and make these milestone achievements. We have to provide adequate resources and facilities for our students, teachers and staff. Let's continue to support our athletes, students, administra-

tion, and staff within the school system," Anderson said.

Upcoming community projects include:

- Ribbon cutting and grand opening of multi-purpose facility building in Henning, TN on Nov. 19;
- Renovation of former Choctaw Health Center building to house several Tribal programs;
- Construction of new clinic in the Red Water community;
- Construction of a new barn for the MBCI Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program;
- Upgrades and improvements of facilities in the surrounding communities.

"As our Tribe continues to grow, we must responsibly explore new businesses and opportunities that will help provide new jobs and increase revenue. Our Tribe is growing and that is a great thing," said Anderson.

Anderson then announced the official enrollment for the Tribe is at 10,867 as she urged families to spend time during the Thanksgiving season.

"Count your blessings and be thankful for the many things the good Lord has richly blessed us with, not just as individuals, but the Choctaw Tribe."

After her address, Pearl River Resort staff members, Boys & Girls Club volunteers and Choctaw Central High School Beta Club members served the Thanksgiving meal to elders in attendance. Entertainment was provided by the Spirit of Life social dancers.

Champions from the 2016 World Series Stickball tournaments, held at the Choctaw Indian Fair this past July, were presented championship banners to display in their respective community gymnasiums.

Honored were Pushmataha champion Pearl River (ages 10-13), Tulli Okchi Ishko champion Koni Hata Himintah (ages 14-17), men's 35-over champion Koni Hata, women's champion Oka Homma Ohoyo, and men's champion Pearl River.



The Pushmataha youth stickball championship banner was presented to Pearl River.



LEFT, The Tulli Okchi Ishko youth stickball championship banner was presented to Koni Hata Himintah. **RIGHT**, The men's 35-over stickball championship banner was presented to Koni Hata.



The women's stickball championship banner was presented to Oka Homma Ohoyo.



The men's stickball championship banner was presented to Pearl River.

Persian Gulf War Veterans Honored At Parade

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians showed their appreciation to military veterans and those currently on active duty serving during the 14th Annual Choctaw Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, Nov. 10 in Choctaw.

This year's theme was *"The Persian Gulf War: Operations Desert Storm & Desert Shield"* as spectators lined part of Black Jack Road in the Pearl River Community to view numerous organizations pay tribute and appreciation to Tribal veterans.

A post-parade program and awards ceremony was held at the Choctaw Veterans Memorial as the Choctaw Color Guard posted the flags adjacent to the parade grandstand. Darien Tubby sang the National Anthem in Choctaw as Fred Willis of the Office of Public Information offered the invocation.

In her address to the audience, Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson said brave men and women have answered the call of duty to our country to gain freedom and liberties for all American cit-

izens and conflicts have been fought by our military to earn and preserve freedom and rights we enjoy today.

"So many American citizens are unaware of the tremendous sacrifice Native Americans have made to protect our country. Today, we gather here at this wall to honor all our veterans. Respect them and show them the gratitude they

have earned," said Anderson.

"We all share great love for our country. The Lord has richly blessed our lives as American citizens and Choctaw tribal members. We ask the good Lord to watch over and continue to give blessings to our veterans, those in active service and members of our military. I encourage each of you to thank

those veterans for their services."

Guest speaker was Carl Chickaway of the Choctaw Police Department. As a veteran of the Marine Corps, he participated in Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

"We honor our heroes as we remember their

achievements, courage and dedication. We say 'thank you' for their sacrifices. To the heroes who are present with us today, and to those who are here in spirit, a person can't help but feel in awe of the enormity of what we have encountered. We stand in the midst of patriots who have served with

...see PARADE, pg. 8



Walking Category Winner - CCHS Lady Warriors Class 3A State Slow-Pitch Softball Champions



Vehicle Category Winner - Choctaw Regional Transportation & Maintenance Facility



Pictured from left are parade grand marshal John Ferguson (Army), Chief Phyliss J. Anderson, guest speaker Carl Chickaway (Marine Corps), & parade grand marshal Matilda Riggen (Navy).



Float Category Winner - Conehatta Elementary School



All veterans in attendance had their picture taken in front of the Choctaw Veterans Memorial in Choctaw.

Veterans Honored At Pow Wow

Hundreds were in attendance at the Pearl River Recreational Field in Choctaw to honor military veterans and those in active service as part of the 22nd Annual Choctaw Veterans Day Pow-Wow Nov. 11-12.

Dancers of all ages showcased their artistry in the circle as drummers provided the heartbeat for the gathering as they honored veterans for their sacrifices they have endured for our country.

Listed below are the dance category winners.

YOUTH

Male
Grass - 1st, Andrew Cotton (MBCI); 2nd, Caiden Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 3rd, Jayce Sam (MBCI).

Fancy - 1st, Kaegan Henry (MBCI).

Southern Straight - 1st, Jordan Langley (Choctaw).

Traditional - 1st, Joseph Bell (Choctaw).

Female
Fancy Shawl - 1st, Sierra Willis (MBCI); 2nd, Jacelyn Ahshapanek (Coushatta/Kiowa/Choctaw); 3rd, Aiyana Bell (Choctaw).

Jingle - 1st, Aali-

yah Tahawah (Choctaw); 2nd, Angel Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Keyana Frazier (MBCI).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Zaiya Bell (MBCI).

TEEN

Male

Grass - 1st, E-Cho Jim (MBCI); 2nd, Peyton Mingo (Choctaw/Coushatta); 3rd, William Isaac (MBCI).

Traditional - 1st, Delson Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 2nd, Micah Lewis (MBCI).

Female

Fancy Shawl - 1st, Taelynn Mingo (Choctaw/Coushatta); 2nd, Adrian

Suke (Potawatomi); 3rd, Mahle Jim (MBCI).

Jingle - 1st, Sophia Suke (Potawatomi); 2nd, Jaci Ahshapanek (Coushatta/Choctaw); 3rd, Charlita Gibson (MBCI).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Sara Littlevoice (Choctaw/Ponca); 2nd, Annie Isaac (MBCI); 3rd, Celia Isaac (MBCI).

ADULT

Male

Grass - 1st, Jon Thompson (MBCI/Alabama Coushatta); 2nd, Kendall Wallace (MBCI); 3rd, Billy Hunt (Lumbee).

Fancy - 1st, Don Ahshapanek (Kiowa/MBCI); 2nd, Terrell

Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Adam Bell (MBCI).

Southern Straight - 1st, Randy Frazier (Choctaw/Shawnee); 2nd, Donovan McMillan (MBCI).

Traditional - 1st, Dustin Mesteth (Oglala Lakota); 2nd, Randy Solomon (MBCI); 3rd, Trilby Wahwasuck (Potawatomi).

Female

Fancy Shawl - 1st, Traci Ahshapanek (Coushatta); 2nd, Meritza Henry (MBCI); 3rd, Kambree Chickaway (MBCI).

Jingle - 1st, Taryn Walking eagle (Cherokee/Choctaw/Dakota); 2nd, Monique Bell (MBCI); 3rd, Antonia Steve (MBCI).

Buckskin - 1st, Fawn Galvan (Paiute/Yaqui).

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Heather Hunt (MOWA Choctaw); 2nd, Kristin Weaver (MOWA Choctaw); 3rd, Sunshine Garcia (Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana)

GOLDEN AGE

Male

Grass - 1st, Lloyd Thompson (Alabama Coushatta).

Southern Straight - 1st, Zack Morris (Sac & Fox).

Traditional - 1st, Badger Wahwasuck (Potawatomi); 2nd, Jess Oosahwe (Cherokee); 3rd, Butch Mudbone (Seneca Nation).

Female

Traditional Cloth - 1st, Karen Wahwasuck (Apache/Potawatomi); 2nd, Nancy Oosahwe (Cherokee); 3rd, Effie Bell (MBCI).

(Winners pictures posted next page)

PARADE continued from page seven

nobility, but let us also thank the family members of all service members. We know you have lived through difficult times, often taking a heavy load to maintain the home front. Thank you for what you have done," said Chickaway.

Veterans came from all walks of life as they shared fundamental qualities such as courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty, & integrity. All these qualities were needed to serve a cause larger than one's self.

"Many of them didn't ask to leave their home to fight on distant battlefields, many didn't even volunteer. They didn't go to war because they

loved fighting. They were called to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They were ordinary people who responded in extreme times. They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect the nation which has given so much to them and us - freedom."

"To all service members and veterans who are here today, thank you for answering the call of duty. You have made our armed forces the most respected in the world. I leave two words for today - Remember and Honor. Remember our fallen and honor those veterans among us. They paid a lot. Embrace them with your gratitude for they are the protectors of your freedom, lives and our

nation's security," added Chickaway.

Navy veteran Matilda Rikken and Army veteran John Ferguson were selected as this year's grand marshals by the parade committee.

The committee also recognized several Tribal veterans for their service. Honored with a special plaque were Linda Williams, Herman Billie, Billy Chickaway, Elvin Sockey, Charles Denson, Jr., Larry McMillan, Charlie Benn, Frank Bell, Jr., Robert P. Tubby, Darrell Willis, & Matilda Rikken.

Winners of the parade categories were announced: (walking) Choctaw Central High School Lady Warriors Class 3A slow-pitch softball champions; (vehicle) Choctaw Region-

al Transportation & Maintenance Facility; & (float) Conehatta Elementary School.

Parade judges - Natasha John, Serena Stoliby & Charles Merrick - were recognized for their work in selecting this year's parade category winners.

The MBCI Protective Services Unit conducted a 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of Taps.

All Choctaw veterans in attendance received a customized long-sleeve t-shirt with the phrase "*I Walk the Walk - U.S. Veteran*" as a token of gratitude compliments of the veterans committee, Chief Anderson and the Tribal administration.

Title I PAB Hosts Meeting

The Title I Parent Advisory Board's (PAB) October work-ing lunch was held at the Ayipa Café. Fifteen Board members and ten guests attend-ed the meeting.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Doris Bell as October's Outstanding Choctaw Educator. She began her career with the schools in 1989 & has worked in the same place for 27 years,

which speaks highly of her work ethic & ability to get along well with others.

Doris attended Red Water Day School then junior high at Pearl River Day School. Her high school career was spent at Haskell Institute. After graduation, she spent two years at Haskell Indian Nations University focusing on secretarial studies. She has one daughter, six grandchildren & seven

great-grand-children.

Bogue Chitto Elementary School (BCES) Principal Lula Townsend was the guest speaker. Townsend grew up in Starkville & has been in education for 34 years.

Her goal for BCES is to make it all-inclusive for everyone. She wants every student to reach their full academic potential and she believes in giving students a fresh start every day.

Choctaw Language & Cultural Integration



Pictured from left are Outstanding Choctaw Educator Award recipient Doris Bell, PAB Chair Ray Willis, BCES Principal Lula Townsend, & newly elected Pearl River Community Board Member Joy Alex.

Coordinator Roseanna Thompson shared recent news that the Tribe was the recipient of two federal language grants that supports Choctaw language preservation.

"Language should be our number one priority

so that it will not be lost," stated Thompson.

For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Cross Country Teams Place At State

The Choctaw Central High School Cross Country Teams brought home a runner-up and third place finish in the 2016 Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) State Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Choctaw Trails in Clinton.

The Lady Warriors finished runner-up in Class 3A for the second consecutive year as

St. Patrick High School claimed their sixth state title in eight years and St. Andrews High School placed third.

Choctaw Central eighth grader Sierra Wallace placed third in the 5k race with a time of 20:24.1 & received a bronze medal. She was followed by teammates junior Kyannah Grant with a time of 20:24.9 for fourth place and junior Kyarra Grant with

a time of 20:30.3 for fifth place.

Choctaw Central junior Alana Billy placed 11th with a time of 21:58.1; junior Elisah Jimmie placed 28th with a time of 23:08.2; eighth grader Lyleonia Johnson placed 32nd with a time of 23:37.2; & eighth grader Jaiden Thomas placed 37th with a time of 24:17.2.

The Lady Warriors won consecutive Class

3A titles in 2013 & 2014.

The Warriors placed third in Class 3A as Mooreville High School was runner-up & St. Andrews High School claimed their sixth consecutive state championship.

Choctaw Central junior Ichukashhelohah Solomon placed second with a time of 17:33.3 & received a silver medal.

Warrior sophomore

McCoy Johnson placed 17th with a time of 18:54.3; eighth grader Dragen Denson placed 26th with a time of 19:25.4; junior Cameron Jenkins placed 30th with a time of 19:43.8; sophomore Lucas Thomas, Jr. placed 51st with a time of 20:40.4; senior Tyler Bell placed 56th with a time of 20:56.5; & senior Dylan Nickey placed 75th with a time of 22:06.8.



Beta Induction Ceremony Held At CCHS

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Choctaw Central High School (CCHS) chapter of the Beta Club inducted 57 new members in a ceremony held in the school library. The inductees bring the total number of members in the CCHS chapter to 134. The National Beta Club is an organization for 4th-12th grade students in the U.S. to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership & service among elementary & secondary school students. New members include: (SENIORS) Montae Bacon, Keyshanna Beamon, Danta Cotton, Aahliya Jones, Dedrick Jordan, Dakota Kennedy, Raina King, Cy McMillan, Betty Mingo, Allen Sockey, Merchaylee Sockey, Elyse Thomas, Tiwantha Thompson, To Wi Lena Thompson, Stacey Tubby, Xena Willis, Taylum Wishork; (JUNIORS) Julius Billy, Skylar Comans, Ichukashhelohah Solomon; (SOPHOMORES) Myric Anderson, Abigail Graves, Cameron Jenkins, Japheth John, Kijuanah Lewis, Jackson Martin, Hunter Smith, Jakob Waiter; (FRESHMEN) Iverson Allen, LaCaniya Anderson, Dathan Bell, Jaida Bell, Rianna Ben, Karl Butler, Jr., Malakai Charlie, Kessler Clemmons, Dantzler Clemons, Shemah Crosby, Shatina Farmer, Malahta Henry, Candace Hickman, Melanian Jimmie, Deontrae Joe, Julian Joe, Jasmine McMillan, Kayden McMillan, Rayven McMillan, Mercedes Peters, Cody Roach, Keyon Roach, Tia'Rain Saunders, Leloni Shoemake, Kristina Taylor, Tazialin Tubby, Denyunhia Willis, Michael Wilson, & Taelor York.



CCHS Cross Country Team members include: (Lady Warriors) Sarah Allen, Alana Billy, Kyannah Grant, Kyarra Grant, Elisah Jimmie, Lyleonia Johnson, Allison Meely, Jaiden Thomas, Sierra Wallace, Taelor York; (Warriors) Ricky Anderson, Jr., Tyler Bell, Dragen Denson, Cameron Jenkins, McCoy Johnson, Dylan Nickey, Ichukashhelohah Solomon, & Lucas Thomas, Jr.



Mingo Signs With MGCCC

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Choctaw Central High School senior Betty Mingo signed a letter of intent/softball scholarship agreement with the Lady Bulldogs of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston. A signing ceremony was held in the Choctaw Central library as Mingo, a member of the 2016 MHSAA's Class 3A Slow-Pitch Softball Champions Lady Warriors, was heralded by her coaches & teammates for her leadership, skill & determination she displayed on the softball field. The Lady Warriors won their second Class 3A slow-pitch softball title since 2013 with a sweep of Mooreville 6-5 & 13-2 on Oct. 22. Pictured above with Betty is her parents Torrie Denson & Joseph Mingo, grandfather John Mingo, great-grandmother Laline Farve, & Lady Warrior teammates & coaches.

Dyslexia Awareness Event Held

The Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Department's Dyslexia Therapy Program hosted a Dyslexia Awareness Community Night at the Golden Moon VIP Room in Choctaw on Oct. 25.

"Two years ago we started this event to honor dyslexic students and their accomplishments and to make the community more aware of what dyslexia is," said Sherry Tubby, Choctaw Tribal Schools' Exceptional Education Coordinator.

"We invite families to come, especially if they have a student that is newly diagnosed and the family doesn't understand what the disability is and how they can help their child."

The Exceptional Education Department began a pilot program during the 2008-2009 school year to provide

specialized reading services for students with specific learning disabilities primarily in the area of reading and language processing and who exhibited the characteristics of dyslexia.

Primary characteristics of dyslexia are difficulties with accurate word recognition, poor spelling, and decoding abilities which research has shown to be linked with the differences in the way the brain is developed in a dyslexic person. This results in the person having difficulty identifying separate speech sounds within a word and/or learning how letters represent these sounds.

Dyslexia is not due to a lack of intelligence or a desire to learn. Recent reading research shows dyslexic students can learn to read with a systematic, explicit reading

method that is taught involving the senses of hearing, touching and seeing (known as a multi-sensory reading approach.)

With over 2,100 students in the Choctaw Tribal School System this school year, officials believe 15-25 percent of that population could be suffering from a mild to extreme form of dyslexia.

"We've grown to eight therapists now because the Tribal administration believes in it, they have invested in it and we can do the therapy at all our schools," said Mary Lou Johnson, Lead Dyslexia Therapist.

"There are other schools across the state that would give anything to have something like this, but they don't have the support. It's all about the kids."

Christy Bounds, par-



Event attendees participated in exercises that put them in the perspective of a dyslexic student & found the difficulties of accomplishing certain tasks.

ent of a dyslexic student, said the Dyslexia Therapy Program has been beneficial and life changing for her daughter.

"Dyslexic students don't understand why they can't learn a certain way other people can. They automatically assume they're not as smart as the other kids and don't feel they fit in. But this program gives them another opportunity to better themselves."

Bounds said after her daughter's therapy sessions, she now reads at a fifth grade level, and

she's only in the third grade.

As a first grade teacher assistant at Bogue Chitto Elementary School, Bounds said more involvement is needed to recruit more therapists.

"We have a lot of students that don't get therapy until the following semester or year because we don't have enough room to teach them. We also need to let people know this is just a speedbump that can be overcome. Parents have to work just as hard as the therapists do."

Choctaw Child Find

The goal of Choctaw Tribal Schools is to provide full educational opportunity and a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to all students with disabilities ages birth through twenty-one (21).

This Child Find project helps locate, evaluate, and initiate education or other needed services for Native American children and youth who have, or at

risk of, developing disabilities or other special needs through ongoing identification activities.

Services and Individualized programs are available for children who are determined eligible to receive specially designed instruction due to the following disabilities or areas of giftedness:

- Autism;
- Deaf - Blindness;
- Developmental Delays;
- Hearing Impairment;
- Emotional Disability;
- Intellectual Disability;

ity,

- Multiple Disabilities,
 - Orthopedic Impairment,
 - Specific Learning Disability,
 - Language or Speech Impairment,
 - Other Health Impairment,
 - Traumatic Brain Injury,
 - Visually Impaired
- Gifted and Talented:
- Intellectual Ability
 - Creative/Divergent Thinking
 - Academic Aptitude/Achievement
 - Leadership

• Visual and Performing Arts.

The Early Education Intervention Program has made a commitment to identify and serve disabled, developmentally delayed, and at-risk Choctaw children living on the reservation or to refer or help these families obtain services at their local county health department.

For more information about services provided, call Angie Gordon, Choctaw Early Education Intervention Program Specialist, at 601-663-7655 or send email

angie.gordon@choctawtribalschools.com.

Persons knowing of a disabled or gifted child who is not receiving an education or know of other children who might be in need of special education services ages birth through 21 years of age, should contact Sherry Tubby, Child Find Coordinator, 122 Division of Schools Drive, Choctaw, MS 39350, telephone number 601-663-7643, or by email at sherry.tubby@choctawtribalschools.com.



NEWS & NOTES

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF MISSISSIPPI
BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS**



Veterans Day Program At CES

On Nov. 9, the Boys & Girls Club Conehatta Unit staff & Conehatta Elementary School honored veterans & servicemen as students sang songs, waved flags, made signs, & thanked each servicemen at the program. Pictured above, from left, are Hugh King (Marines), Ferrell Thomas (Army), Randy Anderson (Army National Guard), & Edwin Thomas (Marines). We, the Conehatta Unit staff, appreciate the opportunity to participate in the activities with the school.



Nov. 10 was the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. Happy Birthday Marines! And **THANK YOU** for your service & sacrifices. We appreciate y'all very much, from the members & staff of the Boys & Girls Club Conehatta Unit. Also, to veterans & active servicemen & women, "Happy Veterans Day" & "Thank You."

Nov. 15th was the Boys & Girls Club's National Military Child Appreciation Day. While recognizing servicemen & women during the Veterans Day Program at the school, we also recognized their children/grandchildren with certificates of appreciation. We presented certificates to Keondrea Anderson for his father, Kelby Anderson, who is currently deployed & Haygen Anderson for his father, Rodgrick Anderson, who is also deployed. Pictured, from left, are Ferrell Thomas, Tazzden Thomas, Edwin Thomas, Hugh King, Kethan Anderson, Randy Anderson, Haygen Anderson, Taijah Kessinger, Kayliona Kessinger, Jordan Langley, & Tiarri Kessinger.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAHTA IMMI NEWS

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Expo On Nov. 15-17, the Mississippi Band



Tribal members of the JBCI form almost a straight line during the Corn Dance as Albert Lewis (right) chants for them.

of Choctaw Indians' (MBCI) Traditional Dancers commemorated Native American Heritage Month by participating in the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' (JBCI) Tribal Expo at JBCI headquarters in Jena, Louisiana.

The group showcased Choctaw dances and Choctaw stickball presentations for students from LaSalle Parish Schools and the surrounding communities.

On Nov. 15 & 16, Department of Chahta Immi (DCI) staff members & consultants held Choctaw dance classes for tribal members of

...continued next page



Dancing the Tick Dance were, from left, Garrison Joe, Ken Frazier, Dustin Isaac, JBCI Tribal Chief Cheryl Smith, Sherrill Nickey, JBCI Tribal Attorney Julie Wilkerson, Peggy Williams, Louise Wallace, & May McGeisey.





Pictured above are members of the Kabotcha Boli social dance group & Indian Health Service (IHS) officials at the IHS Nashville Area Office. (IHS Photo)

the JBCI. The instructors were quite thrilled to teach the enthusiastic group of students of the JBCI.

The MBCI Traditional Dancers presented various social dances at 19 different times for a total of 91 dances during the expo. Indeed, it was a record for the group to present a great number of dances at one place of event, and they enjoyed every minute of it!

Casey Bigpond gave a narration for the dances as Cultural Affairs Program (CAP) consultant

Albert Lewis chanted for the dance group. Lewis, grandson of Woodlin & Thallis Lewis, is a great, impressive chanter who performed very well.

The MBCI group receives outstanding hospitality from the JBCI as they always look forward to attending the tribal expo to share our Choctaw history & culture. This year marked MBCI's third appearance at the expo.

Beaded Collar Necklace Workshop In Henning



Correctional Officers Graduate

Congratulations to the following Tribal members who recently graduated from the Indian Police Academy (IPA) as correctional officers. Pictured, from left, is Alicia Joe, Orita Jenkins, (unidentified IPA official), LeAnn Simpson, Shaun Butler, & Jamison Gibson.



Eleanor Chickaway, Mississippi Choctaw traditional bearer & swamp cane basket maker, presented her outstanding craftsmanship of Choctaw baskets at the Native American Heritage Month event in Nashville. She is a 1993 Governor's Award recipient by the Mississippi Arts Commission. (IHS Photo)

grand opening and community feast celebration at the newly constructed multi-purpose facility building for the Henning Choctaw community. They also participated in dance entertainment during the Thanksgiving feast sponsored by the MBCI Administration.

Group Attends Celebration in

Nashville

To commemorate Native American Heritage Month during the week of Nov. 14-18, Eleanor Chickaway's dance group, *Kabotcha Boli*, participated in the annual Native American Heritage Month Celebration at the Indian Health

see DCI NEWS, pg. 14

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- Unkempt appearance
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- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774



CHAHTA IMMI CULTURAL CENTER

featuring

CHOCTAW EXPRESSIONS
Lifeways of the Choctaw People



The Chahta Immi Cultural Center serves as the hub for showcasing and educating the general public about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' rich cultural and historical legacy. We are very proud to give you a glimpse into the life ways of the Choctaw People.

The story of the Choctaws is one of courage, perseverance and survival against seemingly overwhelming odds. Items featured at the Center gallery serve as mementos of that story. The Center also showcases cultural art forms still practiced by the Choctaws and also provides visitors a chance to experience Choctaw Culture through "Choctaw Expressions" - cultural events and activities that feature live exhibitions and presentations that allows guests to take in the rich heritage of the Choctaw People.

Visitors are welcome to stop by the gift shop and check out the beautiful and unique Choctaw arts and crafts. Every item that you will see has been handcrafted by our gifted Choctaw artisans. These items can be great gifts for loved ones or wonderful keepsakes.

Be sure to contact the Cultural Center at 601-650-1685 for upcoming cultural events.

CHAHTA IMMI
CULTURAL CENTER
Choctaw Shopping Center
Highway 16 West
Choctaw, MS 39350
601-650-1687
www.choctaw.org

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TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH TRIBAL ID \$2
SENIORS (57 AND ABOVE) FREE
CHILDREN (UNDER 5) FREE

IN MEMORIAM

ROY WAYNE STEVE

Funeral service for Roy Wayne Steve, 51, was held on Monday, November 7, 2016, from Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Fu-

neral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Steve passed away on Nov. 4 at his residence.

He was a cook for the Choctaw Tribal Schools & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, helping people, fishing, & playing sports.

He was preceded in death by his father, Roy

James Steve; brother, Jerome Vincent Steve; half-brother, Irvin Jefferson; grandparents, Yates & Leslie Steve, Tony Bell & Annie Mitch; a niece, nephew & step-grandchild.

Survivors include his wife, Charlene Steve; daughter, Kayla Steve Montgomery; step-daughter, Marlena Tubby; sons, Jerome Steve & Jonathan Steve; mother, Delores Bell; sisters, Christine Phillips, Christina Cantrell,

Vera Monk, & Lillie Shoemake; brothers, Danny Steve, McKinley Steve & Nelson John, Jr.; four grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

DARRYL RAY SOLOMON, SR.

Funeral service for Darryl Ray Solomon, Sr., 50, was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, from the St. Catherine Catholic Church in Conehatta. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Solomon passed away on Nov. 11 at Anderson Regional

...continued next page

DCI NEWS continued from page thirteen

Service (IHS)-Nashville Area Office and USET headquarters in Nashville, TN on Nov. 18.

A presentation of Choctaw culture was requested by Tribal member Dwight Isaac, Credentialing/Area Recruiter for IHS.

The 17-member dance group showcased the history and heritage of the Mississippi Choc-

taw. Afterwards, some of the dancers traveled to Henning for the Nov. 19 grand opening of the Henning Multi-Purpose Facility & Thanksgiving Feast for Henning's Choctaw community.

Kabocha Boli dancers participated with members of CAP's dance group & others during the feast.



From left, Choctaw drummers Garrison Joe, CAP Revitalization Specialist Casey Bigpond & Ken Frazier wait patiently for the opening of the Reservation-Wide Thanksgiving Feast festivities at the Silver Star Convention Center on Tuesday evening, Nov. 8. Their stickball team, Pearl River, was recognized for their World Series Stickball championship during the Choctaw Indian Fair by Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.

Upcoming Workshops

The CAP resumed cultural classes in December. Workshops will be held in the Bogue Homa Community at the facility building on the following dates & times:

Dec. 9, Sash & Medallion Beading, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.;

Dec. 14 & 21, Choctaw Dress & Shirt Making, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Dec. 28, Bugle & Seed Bead Collar Necklace, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

In January 2017, workshops will be held in the Pearl River Community starting on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, and every Tuesday afterwards, if no emergencies arise.

The workshops will be the same as offered in other communities.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, there will be a traditional hog killing workshop from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please come and take part in the event.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM 2017 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Requirements:

- Enrolled member of MBCI
- Ages 15-24
- Middle school, high school & college students
- 2.0 GPA (C Average)
- One per family

Applications available at YOP Office!

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April 13, 2017

For more info,
call 601-650-7321

Medical Center in Meridian.

He was a truck driver & enjoyed spending time with his family & listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his mothers, Geraldine John & Lela Solomon; fathers, Frank Dixon, Sr. & Murphy Solomon; sister, Catherine Solomon; & two nephews.

Survivors include his wife, Melissa Solomon; daughters, Darcia Solomon, Deanica Solomon & Demetria Storm; sons, Darryl Solomon, Jr., Dearthyl Solomon & Shaunrey Jefferson; sisters, Sarah John & Deanna John; brothers, Kenneth John & Percy Solomon; 11 grandchildren; two aunts, an uncle, a great-aunt, two great-uncles, a niece, a nephew, & a host of relatives & friends.

RICHARD THOMPSON

Funeral service for Richard Thompson, 50, was held on Saturday, November 19, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Baptist Church. Bro. Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Bogue Chitto Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Thompson passed away on Nov. 16 at Neshoba County General Hospital in Philadelphia.

He enjoyed spending time with family & friends & helping community members. He also enjoyed making people laugh.

He preceded in death by his parents, Steve & Oneva Thompson; sisters, Brenda John & Sandra Thompson; & a brother, Christopher Thompson, Sr.

Survivors include daughters, Koteila Thompson & Nashima Thompson; a son, Richard Tali Bell; sisters, Peggy Thompson & Gail Thompson; a brother, Cecil (Truck) Thompson; three grandchildren; three aunts; three uncles; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

ARCHIE LEE WALLACE

Funeral service for Archie Lee Wallace, 58, was held on Monday, November 21, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Rev. Jack Foster officiated.

Burial was in the Dancing Rabbit Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Wallace passed away on Nov. 17 at Select Specialty Hospital in Jackson.

He was a security officer at Pearl River Resort. He enjoyed spending time with family & friends, hunting & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Karen Jefferson Wallace; mother, Margaret Rose Wallace; sister, Laura Wallace; brothers, Mark Wallace & two infant brothers; & several aunts & uncles.

Survivors include his father, Argie Wallace; stepsons, Tristan McMillan, Sammy Jefferson, Dakota Jefferson, & Kendrick Jefferson; an adopted son, Edwin Bell; brothers, Andrew Wallace & Anthony Wallace; & a host of

nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

EVALENE B. CLEMMONS

Funeral service for Evalene B. Clemmons, 48, was held on Monday, November 21, 2016, from the Pentecostal Church of God Indian Mission in Bogue Chitto. Bro. Anthony Crosby officiated.

Burial was in the Bell/Mingo Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Clemmons passed away on Nov. 17 at her residence.

She was employed with Pearl River Resort then became a homemaker. She enjoyed spending time with her family & friends & listening to gospel music.

She was preceded in death by her father, Royce Bell, Sr.; a sister, Mary Bell; a brother, Curtis Bell; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her husband, Dana Clemmons, Sr.; daughters, Rhonda Clemmons, Keshia Clemmons, Dayna Clemmons, & Jena Clemmons; sons, Octavious Clemmons, Dana Clemmons, Jr. & Seymour Clemons; 17 grandchildren; sisters, Debra Bell & Evelyn Bell; a brother, Royce Bell, Jr.; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

SHARON MARIE ISAAC WILLIS

Funeral service for Sharon Marie Isaac Willis, 52, was held on

Sunday, November 27, 2016, from Hopewell Baptist Church in Standing Pine. Adam Dixon & Bro. Shelly Peoples officiated.

Burial was in the Standing Pine Community Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Willis passed away on Nov. 24 at University Medical Center in Jackson.

She was a piano director at Hopewell Baptist Church where she also enjoyed singing. She enjoyed spending time with her family & friends, cooking, fishing, doing beadwork, & taking care of her pets.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Todd Willis; a brother, Anthony Ray Taylor; & a step-father, Raymond Taylor.

Survivors include her daughter, Cassie Isaac; son, Christopher Bennett; mother, Regina Denson Taylor; father, Malcolm Isaac; sisters, Anita Johnson, Stacey Isaac, Allison Isaac, & Nicole Isaac; a brother, Christopher Tubby; three grandchildren; a special friend, Kernan Comby; & a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, relatives, & friends.

CLAYBURN LEE JEFFERSON

Funeral service for Clayburn Lee Jefferson, 69, was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from the Tucker

.....see OBIT, pg. 16

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Couchhatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/
Family Ministry Class

*To the Jews who had believed him,
Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

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Pastor Thomas Ben**

OBITS continued from page fifteen

Facility Building. Derrick Charley & Bro. Mark Patrick officiated.

Burial was in the Corinth Baptist Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Jefferson passed away on Nov. 25 at his residence.

He held various employment positions & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, playing washers, fishing, watching TV, listening to music, & making jokes.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Malcolm & Mary Davis Jeffer-

son; sisters, Wilma Bell, Faith Osceola & Jerinell Jefferson; brothers, Brady Jefferson, Dewayne Jefferson & Roy Lee Jefferson, Sr.; three uncles; & two wives.

Survivors include his daughters, Debbie Joe & Gloria Bell; sons, Randall Nickey & Eric Nickey; stepsons, Kenneth Jefferson & Roy Lee Jefferson, Jr.; sisters, Rosie McMillan & Angela Bell; a brother, Jerome Jefferson; 14 grandchildren; an aunt, an uncle, a great-uncle, & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

BRONSON JON BELL

Funeral service

for Bronson Jon Bell, 28, was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from the Bogue Chitto Facility Building. Bro. Kendall Wallace & Rev. Doby Henry officiated.

Burial was in the Isleep Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bell passed away on Nov. 18 in Irving, TX.

He was a security officer with Allied Universal. He was a veteran of the Marine Corps & enjoyed being with family & friends, playing stickball, baseball, video games, fishing, hunting, watching sports, & attending concerts.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Brandon Billie; grandparents, Mable & William Jackson, Charlie Bell; & an aunt.

Survivors include

his parents, Flora J. Bell; grandmothers, aunts; six uncles; & Billie & Odell Bell; Louisa Bell & Mary a host of relatives & a brother, Bracey B. Morris; two friends.

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

NOVEMBER 2016

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THE CHOCTAW COMMUNITY FUND, established by the Choctaw Tribal Council in 1985, offers an opportunity for you - as an employee of the Tribe or one of its entities - to give a little back to those in need within the Choctaw community, as well as supporting service organizations that assist individuals residing on or off the reservation.

We ask that you donate your "fair share." This amounts to one-half of one percent of your annual income. If your annual salary is \$20,000 - for instance - your fair share would be a little less than \$2 per week.

Employees pledging \$20 or more are eligible to participate in a drawing for great prizes. Those who pledge \$40 or more will receive a 2017 CCF T-shirt, in addition to participating in the drawing.

Please submit your CCF pledge card in the box at the Tribal Office by Friday, December 23. These contributions reflect the caring power of you, the donors, who share our vision of the community coming together to support each other in health, happiness and success. Together, we are **MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

2016 BENEFICIARIES

Chahta Alla Youth Council • Chahta Anopolish Toffa Binachi • Speak Choctaw Language Camp • Chahta Alla Atoksoilchi
Choctaw Elders Project • Department of Family and Children Services - Foster Care Program • Disabled/Handicapped Farmer's Market
Early Childhood Education • Elderly Services • Fire & Flood Disaster Relief • Natural Resources (4-H Activities, Fall Harvest Ride)
Nittak Himmona Domestic Violence Shelter • Princess and Warrior Survival Camp • School Services • Scouts • SDPI Family Day
Veterans Day Committee (Parade) • Veterans Day Pow Wow • Vocational Rehabilitation • We Tip (Crime Search)
Youth Assistance • Youth Recreation

Yakoki • We Thank You

McMillan Assumes Princess Duties

Autumn Diane McMillan has assumed the rights, obligations & commitments of the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess & will serve as the Tribe's goodwill ambassador until the annual Choctaw Indian Fair in July 2017.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson accepted the resignation of Breanna Isaac as reigning Choctaw Indian Princess.

Autumn, of the Tucker Community, is the 18-year-old daughter of Deanna McMillan & Fabien Tubby. She has two brothers, Coby Tré & Dominic, & a sister, Teresa. Her maternal grandparent is Anita McMillan, & paternal grandparents are Gene

& Helen Moore and Austin & Julia Tubby. She has an American Bulldog named Nala.

Autumn is a 2016 graduate of Choctaw Central High School & is currently a freshman at Mississippi State University. Her plans are to major in Communications, with an emphasis in broadcasting.

Her hobbies include beading, playing sports with family & friends, traveling, & reading books.

Autumn was sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program.

The Princess' favorite Choctaw cultural tradition is beadmaking because she can express her creativity through the artwork she makes.



Chief Anderson, left, with the new 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan.

Tribe Holds Tree Lighting Ceremony

The holiday season kicked off on the Reservation as the Mississippi Band of Choctaw

Indians hosted the Tribal Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on the grounds of the Choctaw

Tribal Office complex in Choctaw on Thursday, Dec. 1.

The evening's entertainment featured a singing troupe from Red Water Elementary School as they performed several Christmas carols for the audience.

Chief Phyliss J. Anderson said the holiday season is a time of celebration and fellowship with family and friends and to show compassion for others.

"It's also a time that we need to reach out to people who are in need. As tribal members it is

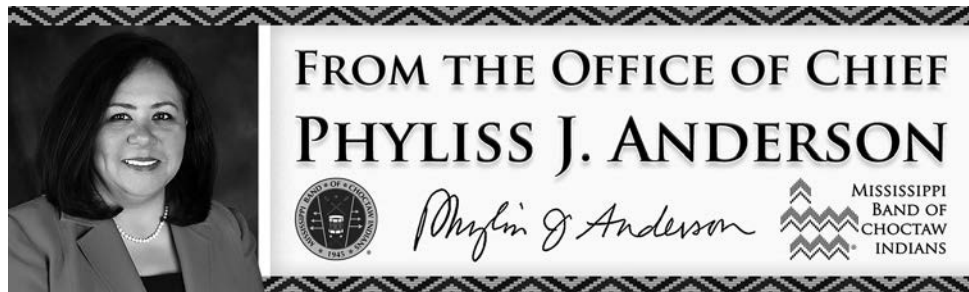
see CEREMONY, pg. 9



LEFT, Several students from Red Water Elementary School provided entertainment for the audience as they sang their favorite Christmas carols.

BELOW, Chief Phyliss J. Anderson & her husband, Ric, officially lit the Tribal Christmas Tree on the grounds of the Choctaw Tribal Office. (Picture inset, Santa Claus makes his appearance at the ceremony.)





Halito! I send you holiday greetings from the Tribal Offices. There is a Christmas song that says 'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year,' and I hope everyone is filled with the holiday spirit while taking special moments to enjoy time with loved ones.

I always enjoy the music of the season and the fellowship, whether it's playing Secret Santa, watching a game or sharing a meal with family and friends.

The holidays are about a time of reflection, togetherness and praise for the greatest gift we have ever received - Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior - sent to save mankind from our sins. We serve an awesome God!

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

CEREMONY

Each year, I have the pleasure of hosting the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's event was held on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at the Choctaw Tribal Offices.

It was a beautiful night as we welcomed the holidays on our Choctaw Indian Reservation. I share my sincerest appreciation to the many tribal employees who help put up the beautiful tree, festive lights and decorations to brighten our tribal offices. I know all our children, employees and guests enjoy the efforts of those who decorate.

During the ceremony we enjoyed wonderful Christmas music presented by students from Red Water Elementary School. And, of course,

no Christmas gathering is complete without some cookies and hot cocoa from our very own Pearl River Resort.

Christmas is a time of giving and, on behalf of our Tribe, I was so happy to donate funds to the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee, the CCHS Solar Car Team, the Choctaw Veterans Committee and each of the Community Development Clubs.

We also were surprised and delighted to welcome a special visitor to the Choctaw Indian Reservation all the way from the North Pole - Santa Claus! Again, a great time was had by all and I thank everyone that attended this special holiday celebration.

2016-2017 CHOCTAW INDIAN PRINCESS

On Friday, December 2, 2016, I had the pleasure of crowning Autumn Diane McMillan the 2016-2017 Choctaw Indian Princess.

Autumn is from the Tucker community and is the daughter of Deanna McMillan and Fabien Tubby. She has two brothers, Coby Tré and Dominic, and a sister, Teresa.

Her maternal grandparent is Anita McMillan and her paternal grandparents are Gene



Chief Anderson visited Tribal elders on Dec. 6 for fellowship & games of bingo at the Elderly Activity Center. She presented each elder with a fleece blanket embroidered with the tribal seal & her signature.

and Helen Moore and Austin and Julia Tubby.

Autumn is a 2016 graduate of Choctaw Central High School and is currently a freshman at Mississippi State University where she is majoring in Communications with an emphasis in broadcasting.

Autumn was sponsored by the Youth Opportunity Program. I am confident Autumn will do a fantastic job serving as our goodwill ambassador and representing our great Tribe.

ELDERLY BINGO

On Tuesday, December 6th, I visited the Tribal Elderly Activity Center and enjoyed fellowship and bingo games with many of our elders.

I enjoy visiting with our elders throughout the year, but I especially love the Holiday bingo event as we spend time to visit and treat our elders with special Christmas gifts.

I want to thank the Elderly Center staff and elders for their hospitality during this visit.

I always appreciate the kind words and encouragement we receive on our visits and I look forward to serving all tribal members. During this cold season, let us all be mindful to pay extra attention and care to our tribal elders.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LUNCHEON

...continued next page

CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

The Choctaw Community News is available at no charge upon request. Donations to help cover the cost of printing, mailing are welcomed. Correspondence should be addressed to:

**COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 6010**

CHOCTAW, MS 39350

TELEPHONE: 601-663-7736 FAX: 601-650-1565

Brian C. Willis Communications Manager
Kathie Henry Communications Writer
Taryn Carey Communications Writer
Darron Tubby Communications Writer

Items of interest to the local and Native American community are welcomed. Letters to the editor should be signed; we reserve the right to edit material.

On Thursday, December 22nd, we held the annual Tribal Government Christmas Potluck Luncheon for our tribal government employees at the Pearl River Gymnasium.

As always, the food was delicious, but even better was the fellowship and fun we enjoyed! Our employees work so hard throughout the year to provide important services for our tribal members and this is a time we can acknowledge and celebrate their efforts.

Our program featured games and several live holiday musical performances from Deidre Tubby, Joshua Peoples, Drew Harrison, and the Great Spirit Methodist Church Youth Choir.

We also announced winners of our community-wide Christmas decorating contests and the winner of our Em-

ployee of the Year contest.

I want to thank the all those involved in making our Christmas party another memorable event. It's certainly something we all look forward to each year.

BOK HOMA CASINO CELEBRATES 6-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday, December 20th, we celebrated the 6-year anniversary of Bok Homa Casino. Patrons enjoyed a special anniversary cake, hors d'oeuvres and live music throughout the night.

We have enjoyed the successes Bok Homa has brought to our Pearl River Resort and we are very appreciative to our loyal guests and associates for making this property a premier gaming destination in South



Members of the Great Spirit United Methodist Church Children's Choir of the Bogue Chitto Community pose with Chief Anderson & Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan after their performance at the Tribal Government Christmas Luncheon at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium on Dec. 22.

Central Mississippi.

The casino first opened on December 20, 2010. In addition to the 27,000 square feet of slot machines and quick-serve eatery, the casino features an Events Center and table games which includes

Blackjack, Mississippi Stud, and Three Card Poker.

Again, thank you to the many people involved in making this anniversary event a success.

CLOSING

As we reach the end of the year, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your kind words of encouragement and support this past year. There have been times I have felt the strength of our tribal members as you prayed for our Tribe and leaders.

I am so encouraged by the progress we made in 2016 and I am very hopeful the New Year will bring our Tribe even more success.

We all face challenges and hardships, but I have no doubt the Lord our Father is guiding our Tribe. Great are his plans for each of us. I pray you find many comforts, peace and happiness in the New Year.

Many Blessings,

Phyllis J. Anderson

Phyllis J. Anderson,
Tribal Chief



Bok Homa Casino celebrated its six year anniversary on Tuesday, Dec. 20. The event kicked off with the cutting of the anniversary cake as guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment & received a choice of a free anniversary t-shirt or hat, while supplies lasted.

"We are pleased to be celebrating six years of continued success at Bok Homa Casino," stated Sonny Johnson, Interim President & CEO for Pearl River Resort, "Bok Homa is steadily growing as we continue

to make improvements, introduce new features, & provide our guests with a memorable gaming experience. This celebration also marks our one year anniversary of table games. I truly thank our wonderful guests & dedicated associates for their loyalty to Bok Homa Casino."

For more information on Bok Homa Casino, call 1.866.447.3275 or visit www.bokhomacasino.com.

Tribe Hosts Christmas Luncheon For Employees

It was a time for holiday food, fellowship, fun, and appreciation as the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) hosted its annual Tribal Government Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 22 at the Pearl River Community Gymnasium in Choctaw.

Tribal Chief Phyliss J. Anderson offered her appreciation to all employees in attendance



ABOVE, It was a standing room crowd inside the Pearl River Community Gymnasium as the Tribe hosted their annual Christmas luncheon for Tribal government employees & guests on Dec. 22.

and credited them for the success of the Tribe in 2016.

"It's the hard work that you put in day in and day out, coming to work everyday and making sure we're able to serve our Tribal members and the needs they have. I want

you to know the work you do is not only for the Tribe, but something the good Lord gives you an opportunity to do."

"I can honestly say the group of employees we have are just wonderful. You do such great things, which helps me do my job even better. I feel our heart is in the right place when we do our work. It's very important to me that you, the tribal employees, understand how much I value and appreciate your hard work and I ask that you rededicate your time and commitment in 2017 so that we will continue to prosper in

...see LUNCH, pg. 10



ABOVE, Entertainment was provided by, from left, Drew Harrison, Deidre Tubby & Joshua Peoples; **BELOW,** Members of the Great Spirit United Methodist Church Children's Choir of the Bogue Chitto Community sang several Christmas carols.



Pictured from left are Christmas Decoration Contest winners Tomika Bell (1st place), Daniel Lee Tubby (2nd place), Jennifer Thomas (3rd place), Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan, & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson.



From left are Princess Autumn McMillan, Bogue Chitto honorable mention Renata Morris (with daughter) & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson



From left are Princess Autumn McMillan, Crystal Ridge honorable mention Savannah Guerrero & Chief Phyliss J. Anderson

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS OF
THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS



Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan
Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson



Tribal Administration



Switchboard



Finance



Mailroom



Human Resources



Janitorial Aides



Offices of the Tribal Council



Recreation



Red Water Facility Building



Children and Family Services



Public Works Department



Youth Opportunity Program



Department of Employment and Training



Adult Education Program



Boys & Girls Club - Pearl River Teen Center



Department of Public Safety



Choctaw Tribal Court System



Choctaw Legal Defense



Choctaw Wildlife and Parks
and Choctaw Animal Control



Choctaw Fire Department



Choctaw Transit



Office of Economic Development





CHC Administration



CHC Health Information Management



CHC Primary Care



CHC Diabetes Center



CHC Vision Center



CHC Behavioral Health



CHC's Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest



CHC Information Technology



CHC Business Office and Managed Care



CHC Billing



CHC Procurement



CHC Physical Therapy



Choctaw Housing Authority

STARZ Entertain At PAB Meeting

December's Title I Parent Advisory Board (PAB) working lunch was held at the Ayipa Café in Choctaw. Fourteen Board members and 16 guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Nan Hartness and her Culinary Arts students.

The Standing Pine Elementary School "STARZ," under the direction of Melody Starling, presented an extraordinary program. The students, accompanied by Josh Peoples, sang Christmas songs in Choctaw and English.

PAB Chair Ray Willis recognized Fannie Wil-

lis as December's Outstanding Choctaw Educator. She has worked with the Tribal Schools for 27 years. She worked with the Upward Bound program for eight years and will soon celebrate her 20th year at Choctaw Central Middle School.

Fannie attended Conehatta Elementary School and is a graduate of Choctaw Central High School. She furthered her education at East Central Junior College where she studied Intensive Business.

Fannie is married to Travis Willis. They have two sons, Jason (Ken-

dell) and Kevin (Tia). They are blessed with eight grandchildren.

Education committee member Wilma S. McMillan posthumously recognized the late Rita John Steve for her work ethic, kindness, love of the Lord, family and friends. Wilma presented framed pictures of Rita to her husband, Peter, and son, Landon John.

The board will meet again in February 2017. For more information, contact William F. Bell at 601-663-7660 or Dianne Johnston at 601-656-5724.



Pictured above are members of Standing Pine Elementary School's STARZ singers.



Pictured from left are December's Outstanding Choctaw Educator award recipient Fannie Willis, Landon John, Wilma S. McMillan, & Peter Steve.

CEREMONY continued from page one

very important that we take care of each other and also those that are less fortunate. We must reach out to families who need us and show them love. That is what Christmas is really about."

"I hope that everyone enjoys the Christmas season and the new year with your family, friends and loved ones. And remember that Jesus is the reason for the season," said Anderson.

Several organizations were honored for their service to Tribal members and received donations from the Tribe.

The Choctaw Bible Translation Committee received a \$20,000 donation to assist with projects as they are

translating the Bible into the Choctaw language for Tribal members.

The Choctaw Central High School Solar Car Team received a \$10,000 donation to assist with expenses for activities and equipment during the school year.

The Choctaw Veterans Committee received a \$10,000 donation to assist with expenses

during the year.

There were also several winners for door prizes. The event culminated with Santa Claus making an appearance as the children had their pictures taken with him in front of the Tribal tree.

Refreshments were provided by Pearl River Resort, compliments of Chief Anderson.



Members of the CCHS Solar Car Team accepted a \$10,000 donation to assist with equipment & expenses for the upcoming school year.



Chief Anderson (far left) presents a \$20,000 donation to members of the Choctaw Bible Translation Committee to assist with projects for the upcoming year.



Members of the Choctaw Veterans Committee accepted a \$10,000 donation to assist with expenses for the upcoming year.

LUNCH continued from page four

the new year.”

Anderson then asked the audience to keep in their thoughts to those families who are coping with the loss of a loved one during this holiday season.

“I ask that you continue to pray for their healing. It’s very important that we reach out to all of our tribal members during this season. It’s also important that we do that in our daily work, but especially during the

holiday season.”

Winners of the 15th Annual Reservation-Wide Christmas Decoration Contest were recognized for their efforts as several participants received cash awards.

Out of 25 registered contestants representing seven communities, Tomika Bell of Bogue Chitto was named the overall winner and received a check for \$600. Daniel Lee Tubby

of Pearl River placed second and received \$500. Jennifer Thomas of Bogue Homa placed third and received \$400.

Contestants named as honorable mentions and recipients of a \$150 check included: Renata Morris, Bogue Chitto; Brenda Vaughn, Bogue Homa; Savannah Guerrero, Crystal Ridge; Lorena Alex, Pearl River; Prentiss Chitto, Red Water; Holly Peters, Standing Pine; and Kristen Lewis, Tucker.

In the last presentation of the event, Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Director Mitzi Reed was announced as the 2016 MBCI Employee of the Year. She was presented a plaque and a check for \$500.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, all in attendance stood and sang a favorite Christmas carol, *Silent Night*, to reflect on the true meaning

and spirit of the Christmas season.

Entertainment was provided by Drew Harrison, Deidre Tubby, Joshua Peoples, and the Great Spirit United Methodist Church

Children’s Choir of the Bogue Chitto Community.

MBCI Chief of Staff Rae Nell Vaughn served as emcee and Rev. Daniel Tubby offered the blessing of the food.



From left are Princess Autumn McMillan, Pearl River honorable mention Lorena Alex & Chief Phylliss J. Anderson



From left is Princess Autumn McMillan, Red Water honorable mention Prentiss Chitto (with children) & Chief Phylliss J. Anderson



From left is Princess Autumn McMillan, Standing Pine honorable mention Holly Peters & Chief Phylliss J. Anderson

Prevent Elder Abuse

Identify It!

Report It!

Stop It!

Warning Signs

- Fear, withdrawal, depression
- Shame, anxiety, embarrassment
- Unexplained bruises or injuries
- Hesitation to talk openly
- Isolation by caregiver
- Unkempt appearance
- Loss of self-esteem
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions

Recognizing the warning signs is the key to identifying and stopping an occurrence of elder abuse.

For more information on elder abuse, contact
Family Violence and Victim's Services
at 601-650-1774

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- Or any other illegal activity

You can call 24 hours a day & report your concern to us. No one will ask your name, you will remain anonymous. Your tip may lead to a **REWARD**, up to \$1,000!



Choctaw Wildlife & Parks Director Mitzi Reed (center) was announced as the 2016 MBCI Employee of the Year. Presenting the plaque & \$500 check were Princess Autumn McMillan (left) & Chief Phylliss J. Anderson.

IN MEMORIAM

NANNIE MAE MITCH

Funeral service for Nannie Mae Mitch, 72, was held on Saturday, December 3, 2016, from the Mt. Zion Indian Baptist Church in Red Water. Rev. Duane Reinhardt & Rev. Carl Wilson officiated.

Burial was in the Old Mt. Zion Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Mitch passed away on Nov. 30 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a member of Mt. Zion Indian Baptist Church & enjoyed spending time with family & friends, yard & house work, & listening to gospel music.

She was preceded in

death by her husband, Cecil Mitch; parents, Lusan & Ike Billy; sisters, Rose Mary Wilson, Lillie Billie & Katie Willis; & brothers, Cephus Billy, Lewis Billy, John Billie, & Larry Billie.

Survivors include her daughter, Penny Mitch; sisters, Ruth Ann Willis, Nancy Sockey & Clarice Billy; brothers, Sampson Billy, Herman Billie & Carson Billy; three grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

JOEL SHOEMAKE, JR.

Funeral service for Joel Shoemake, Jr., 30, was held on Friday, December 23, 2016, from the Pearl River Community Center. Rev. Robert

Paul Tubby, Sr. officiated.

Burial was in the Blackjack Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Shoemake passed away on Dec. 18 at the University Medical Center in Jackson.

He was a member of Pearl River Baptist Church & enjoyed being with family & friends, playing basketball, softball, washer throw, & texting.

He was preceded in death by his father, Joel Shoemake Sr.; a brother, Kerri Von Eric Ben; grandparents, Chester & Marguerite Ben, Elton Shoemake & Elizabeth Solomon; an uncle & twin nephews.

Survivors include his mother, Kathryn Ben Shoemake; sisters, Joni S. Bell, Kendall Ben & Karedi Shoemake; & host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

in Tucker. Father Bob Goodyear, S.T., officiated.

Burial was in the church cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Ben passed away on Dec. 20 in Choctaw.

He was a retired cafeteria manager with the Choctaw Tribal Schools. He enjoyed being with his family & participating in football, basketball, softball, stickball, & fishing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lester Ben & Vina Willis; sisters, Janice Mingo & Daphne Ben; & a nephew.

Survivors include his daughters, Melinda Ben, Bonnie Ben, Kandice Ben, Kendra Anderson, Amelia Ben, & Amber Ben; spouse, DeeSandra Ben; a sister, Senna Willis; brother, Christopher Ben; 18 grandchildren; & a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, & friends.

VANIDA ISAAC LEWIS

Funeral service for Vanida Isaac Lewis, 86, was held on Saturday,

December 24, 2016, at Hope Indian Baptist Church in Choctaw.

Burial was in the Simon Isaac Cemetery. John E. Stephens Chapel Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.

Ms. Lewis passed away on Dec. 21 at the Choctaw Residential Center in Choctaw.

She was a homemaker & enjoyed singing.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Horace Lewis; parents, Hugh Isaac & Celia Farmer Isaac; son, Gary Lee Lewis; sister, Beauty Ann Vaughn Willis; brother, Phillmon Isaac; two grandchildren; & a granddaughter.

Survivors include her daughters, Mavis Steve, Nancey Denson, Sandra Morris, Zula Mae Jim, & Sally Wesley; sons, Larry Lee Lewis, Horace Lewis, Jr., Howard Dewayne Lewis, & Fredrick Lewis; sister, Arneddia Duplessie; brothers, Deacon Williamson Isaac, Rev. Emerson Isaac & Deacon George Isaac; 36 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; & a host of relatives & friends.

Come and Worship with us



Macedonia Baptist Church
130 Campus Drive
Conehatta, MS 39057

Sunday

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
5:00 p.m. - Evening Service
1st Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Samuel Dixon

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. - Pray Meeting
6:30 p.m. - Discipleship/
Family Ministry Class

*To the Jews who had believed him,
Jesus said, "If you hold to my
teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the
truth, and the truth will set you free."
- John 8:31-32*

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Pastor Thomas Ben**

MARK BEN

Funeral service for Mark Ben, 53, was held on Friday, December 23, 2016, from the Holy Rosary Catholic Church



*In Loving Memory
Willie Mae Hickman
February 2, 1948 - October 9, 2015*



In Loving Memory of Willie Mae Hickman - We Love You & Miss You

HOLIDAY PARADES

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was well represented at the annual Philadelphia Christmas Parade on Dec. 12. Several entries placed in their respective categories. Pictured right is the Pearl River Resort float as they placed 3rd in the Commercial Division.



ABOVE, Pearl River Elementary School Princesses & Braves placed first in the Youth Division.



RIGHT, The MBCI Cub Scouts Pack 61, Boy Scouts Troop 61 placed third in the Youth Division.



CHOCTAW COMMUNITY NEWS

DECEMBER 2016

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Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan was part of the Bok Homa Casino entry in the Laurel Christmas Parade on Dec. 3.



Choctaw Transit, pictured above, transported several children as part of their parade entry. Pictured below is the Tribal 4-H Program's float entry.



Participating in the Carthage Christmas Parade on Dec. 2 included several students representing Standing Pine Elementary School,



Pearl River Resort, Choctaw Fire Department, & Choctaw Indian Princess Autumn McMillan.